



CONNECTING

A newsletter by and for EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

November / December 2017

Volume 14, Issue 7

A 50th ANNIVERSARY for CHRISTMAS!

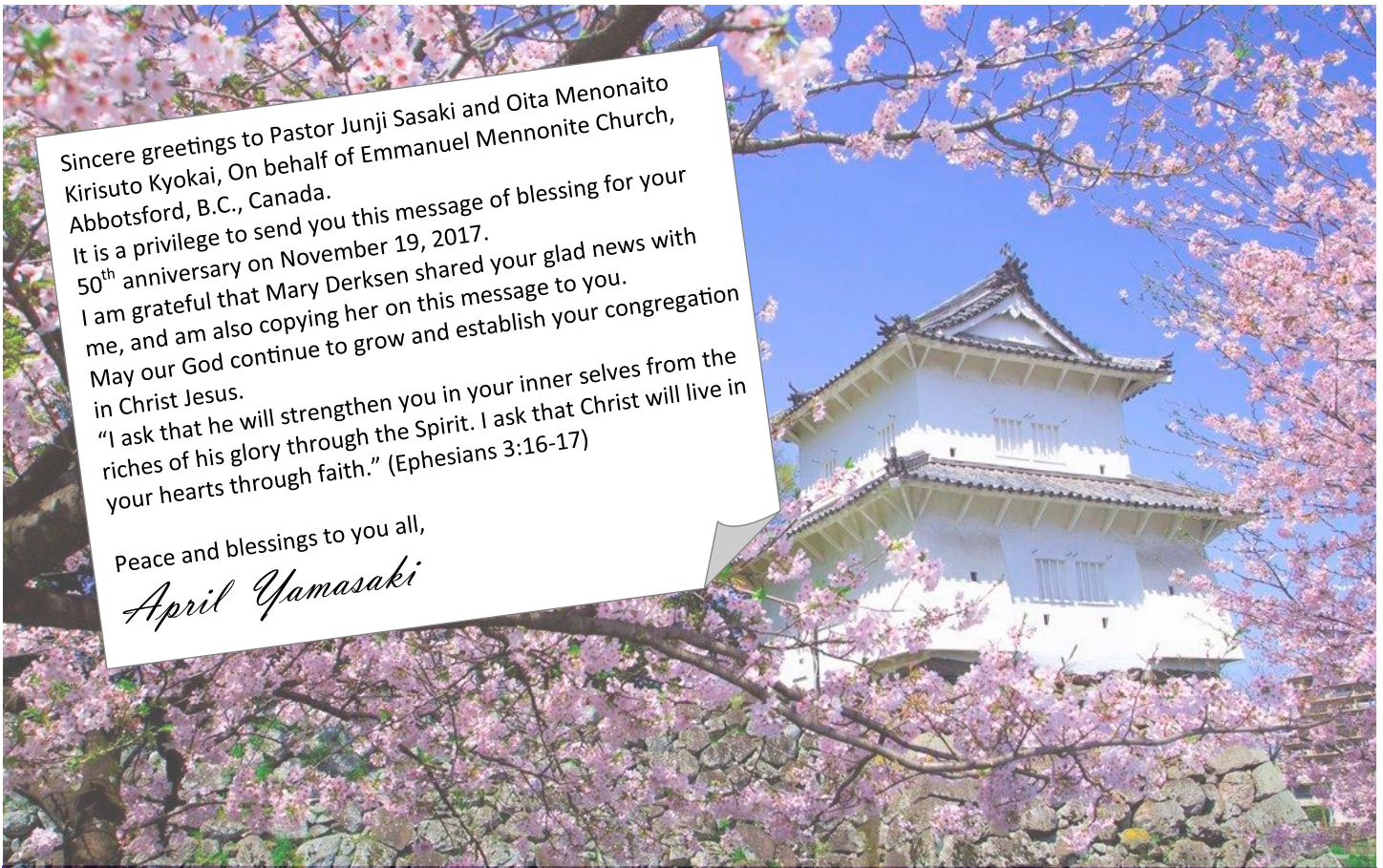
In July, 1967, our family of 7, Peter 39, children, Vangy 15, Rickie 14, Rose 11, Bill 9, Wanda 9, and Mary 39, moved to a rented house in the city of Oita. On November 18th, that same year, seventy neighbors, friends, pastors and Christians from other churches, joined us to celebrate the dedication of our new home and church to the Lord. Three weeks later the Lord blessed us with the birth of Lily. Two out of the world wonderful Christmas gifts – a new home/church and a new baby!

A divinely inspired happening. One day a high school student came to the door and asked, "Please teach us about the love of God!" His retinue of four or five were lined up behind him. Usually students asked us to teach them English. This one surprised us. He had gone to see the movie *Jikkai, The Ten Commandments* several times, and was so impressed that he decided to become an evangelist before he knew anything about Christianity! When he wanted to attend Bible College after high school, his parents begged us with tears to stop him! Junji Sasaki has been pastor of the Oita Mennonite Christian Church for over thirty years.

Sunday, November 19th, the Oita Mennonite Christian Church in Japan will celebrate their 50th anniversary. Peter and I were there for their 20th, 30th, and 40th. Sasaki Sensei, the pastor, invited me to come. I will attend via video, and with my heart.

The Oita Mennonite Christian Church is a result of your prayers and offerings. THANK YOU!

Mary Derksen



Sincere greetings to Pastor Junji Sasaki and Oita Menonaito Kirisuto Kyokai, On behalf of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, B.C., Canada.
It is a privilege to send you this message of blessing for your 50th anniversary on November 19, 2017.
I am grateful that Mary Derksen shared your glad news with me, and am also copying her on this message to you.
May our God continue to grow and establish your congregation in Christ Jesus.
"I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith." (Ephesians 3:16-17)

Peace and blessings to you all,

April Yamasaki

EMMANUEL MENNONITE CHURCH

Phone:604-854-3654

3471 Clearbrook Rd., Abbotsford

Website: www.emmanuelmennonite.com

Humans of Emmanuel



Share about a challenge that you've over-come.

When I was completing my studies in Leadership I felt frustrated by my lack of progress in my coursework. I felt like I needed to work day in and day out, frequently not taking a break even on weekends. Sometimes I felt so much pressure I told Walter that I could not attend church so I could get my assignments done. It bothered me that I was not keeping the Sabbath and the impact it may be having on my family.

After reading a book by Marva Dawn entitled "Keeping the Sabbath Wholly" I determined that making the Sabbath a priority was something that I needed to be more deliberate about. As a result, I gradually realized that I was more settled in my faith, had a happier family life, and also made quicker progress in completing coursework towards my MA.

I am struck at how easily I can let work and other priorities lead me away from what is best for me. By recalling this time, I am challenged yet again to remember the things that are really important in life; faith, family and the Community of Faith.

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

When I was growing up, I struggled to know what I wanted to be. I did not always feel that I had the capacity to learn well enough to accomplish a profession. My mother saw qualities in me that I should be a nurse. When I was a child, she made me a nursing uniform to play in and with a cap that was eerily similar to the cap I later graduated in. I wore that cap for several years as it was at that time, an expected part of the nursing uniform.

I almost quit my training as I was far more excited about music and wanted to develop my voice, but health care kept calling me back. I also kept up studies in theology and Bible at CMBC (now CMU) and found that my studies there and later at AMBS, influenced the way I provided care, taught students and now lead nurses and care staff.

Interactions with patients, families and students reinforced, as time went on, that I had chosen the right profession. It seemed that the various influences helped me to see that nursing was more than a job; it was a calling.

What verse helps you through difficult times?

I am not good at memorization unless it has been set to music. When I have difficult times, I inevitably listen to music and for me; the most comforting and inspiring message comes from the Oratorio, Mendelssohn's Elijah. A particularly beautiful aria in the Oratorio which is based on Isaiah 54:10 describes God's love in the context of an unfaithful people of Israel. They are offering sacrifices to Baal and Elijah challenges them to follow the one true God, often at great personal sacrifice.

The following words set to music are a powerful reminder to me of God's unfailing love throughout all the hills and valleys of life. My faith is lifted up through the power of scripture put to music in such an extraordinary way.

"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills, the hills be removed
But thy kindness shall not depart, but thy kindness, thy kindness shall not depart from me; neither shall the covenant of thy peace, of thy peace be removed. Neither shall the covenant of thy peace be removed. But thy kindness shall not depart, shall not depart, but thy kindness shall not depart, shall not depart from me. Neither shall be removed the covenant of thy peace."

See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwqVvF3klBq>

(A link to the music)



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



Creation Care Chat

With Stan Olson

This month we visit the recycling issue once again. I hope I can clarify a few things.

If you live in a single family dwelling, you have access to all these services provided by the city:

- weekly curbside pickup of **compost/yard waste**;
- weekly curbside pickup in blue bags of some of what can be **recycled**;
- every second week curbside pickup of **garbage**.

With recent city policy changes, the following other articles for recycling can't be put out in blue bags but must be taken to local recycling depots (see my previous column for details):

- glass bottles and jars;
- light bulbs;
- batteries;
- styrofoam (packaging, food containers, food trays, cups);
- electronics;
- film plastic (shopping bags, bread bags, etc.). Note that hard plastic containers numbered 1 through 7 can be put out in blue bags.

If you live in a multi-family complex (apartment, seniors' home, etc.), you of course don't have curbside pickup, but be aware that city and regional bylaws are coming and soon you will no longer be allowed to dispose of compost and recycling in the garbage. How it will work remains to be figured out, and there will be an adjustment period to allow for making arrangements and for getting used to these new requirements. Institutions (churches, industry, restaurants, etc.) will also come under these bylaws.

The church Green Team is already providing compost collection at most church food events, and the church has contracted with a provider for recycling of some recyclable materials. So at most church food events, almost nothing actually goes in the garbage. We do this to prepare for the coming regulations, but more so because we believe it is good stewardship of the creation God has provided for us. We have also placed blue boxes throughout the church to make it easy to recycle paper, cardboard, etc.

At the church the Emmanuel Green Team has been providing for disposal of some of the above as an alternative to taking them to the recycling depots. You can bring to church:

- Batteries
- Light bulbs

and place them in the containers at the Welcome Desk.

You will now find a new set of containers at the far end of the foyer at church for you to bring in these items that would otherwise need to go to a local recycling depot (We will take them there for you):

- Styrofoam (only small things like food trays, food containers, and cups – no large blocks)
- Plastic bags (only shopping bags, bread bags and similar thin soft plastic bags). Note that "Saran wrap" type of film is not accepted by the city to recycle so it goes in the garbage, unfortunately.

PLEASE note that all these must be **clean** and **dry**. Anything with food remnants can't be recycled, and I don't provide a cleaning service for you!

Each year on a Sunday morning in October (this year's was October 1) we provide for you to bring electronics and Styrofoam (of all sizes) to the church parking lot to be properly recycled.

Plastic grocery bags used to be accepted in blue bags but that policy has been changed, and many people have been frustrated. The city is aware of this, and the policy may eventually be modified. For now, see my column in the previous newsletter for other options, and you can now bring plastic shopping bags and bread bags to church for recycling.

creationcarechat@gmail.com if you have any questions or feedback.

Reflections on the Mennonite Church Canada Special Delegate Assembly

This meeting took place in Winnipeg, October 13-25 and the purpose for this meeting was to vote on the future of our nationwide church and the bylaws that will govern the new format.

EMC was well represented with 9 people being present, some being EMC delegates, others being MCBC delegates and still others being part of committees that made it necessary for them to be present.

The meetings were live streamed across the country. Many folks were listening attentively from the comfort of their homes and you can still listen and watch everything here

https://www.youtube.com/user/mennonitechurchca/videos?disable_polymer=1

Since the meetings, many reports have also been circulated and can be accessed online or downloaded. (*if you prefer to have a printed copy*)

The following are a few links to help you find the referred to reports

The Assembled News

<http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/special-assembly-2017-news-available-download>

Covenant New: "Being" before "doing"

<http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/covenant-new-being-doing>

Mennonite Church Canada Staff Transitions

<http://news.mennonitechurch.ca/mennonite-church-canada-staff-transitions>



Here are a few comments from some of us that were present at this Special Assembly:

Pastor April – EMC Lead Pastor

Since I was part of the Future Directions Task Force, I was glad to step out of my study leave to see what next steps we might take as Mennonite Church Canada. Our Task Force recommendation was approved last year by 94% of the delegate vote, and since then others have refined and filled in more details. The refined proposal was again approved by 94% of the delegate vote at this Special Assembly. Many areas still need attention--most notably International Mission, Communications, and Finance--so this is still very much a process. I pray for God's leading, wisdom, strength, and grace for our congregations, regions, and nation-wide church.

Linda Matties

I enjoyed the singing. I have already asked Gerald about helping all of us learn the new song that was introduced at assembly.

I enjoyed getting to know the people at my table.

It was great that the motions passed without controversy. However, I think the joint council will have a lot of work to do to ensure that all the ministry areas are covered in some way.

Walter Bergen

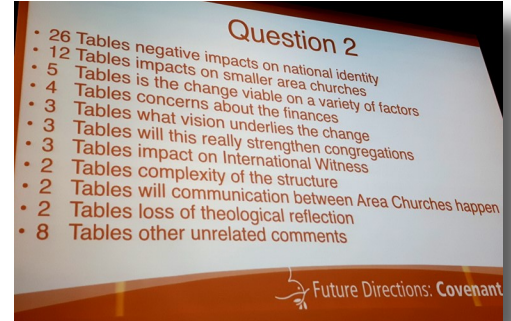
"It was great to sit with Ginny Hochstettler, Tom Yoder Neufeld and others at table and hear their perspectives over two days. These are wonderful people with whom I have significant and principled disagreements with."

Waltrude Gortzen – MCBC Women’s Ministry Rep and Area Church Delegate

After the conclusion of the Assembly on Sunday morning, **Mennonite Women Canada** gathered to enjoy lunch together and then proceeded to have its own meeting needing to discuss their future. I am pleased to report that we will continue as we were. A newsletter from Mennonite Women Canada will be coming shortly so keep your eyes open.

Joon Park

Attached photo is the feedback from the delegates about the new structure and proposal in which our national identity turns to regional. This represents that a lot of people across Canada are concerned about the transition we are facing now. In addition to that, I resonate with what Tom Yoder said of "congregational individualism," which the current Mennonite church moves into, inevitably.



Also, as a person who was appointed to go to China as a Witness worker, I feel disappointed that all international Witness workers should return by the end of June next year and all things thereafter are uncertain. So personally I feel like losing my direction on the mission of God for the Mennonite church and corporately a new era which brings forth a challenge unfolds. God, have mercy on us who are at the crossroads.

Waldimar Neufeld

I was encouraged by the positive spirit at the convention. There was optimism that the new structures will contribute to binding the various regions and churches together.

The challenge for the future will be to turn-around the declining financial support which has been apparent in recent years.

This will mean re-imagining the future church with some creative visionary programs that might recapture the financial support needed to bring this to reality.

Elinor Neufeld

The highlight of the assembly for me was the movement from apprehension around our designated table of 10 persons from across the 5 regions of MCCanada, to hopefulness and celebration, after a day and a half of deliberation and sharing. The proposed structure for regional and national responsibilities and challenges was supported by 94% of the delegates! Worship team drew us back to our center, Jesus, time and again. The singing was amazing!!



Pretty Poinsettias

We've teamed up with Windsor Greenhouse to bring you beautiful Poinsettia plants just in time for the Christmas season!

Order yours today:

- 4" available in red or white \$5
- 6" available in red, white, pink and marble \$12
- 10" available in red, white, pink or marble \$30

Poinsettias will be ready for pick up on Friday, December 1st. To order, call Communitas at 604 850 6608 or email

info@mattshouse.ca

All proceeds benefit Matthew's House!



As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God's salvation.'

Luke 3:4-6

Walk for Reconciliation Leane Winger



On Sunday, September 24 the boys and I were able to participate in the Walk for Reconciliation in Vancouver. It was a big day, with a mind-boggling number of people participating. It involved a two kilometre walk and a number of events at Strathcona Park with speeches and music and activities.

For me, it was important to go as a way of saying that I care about the injustices that the Indigenous people have experienced and continue to experience in our country, and that I am one of many, many people who want those injustices to be addressed and for there to be reconciliation.

I think my favourite part of the day was watching Steven learn a bit about lacrosse, along with people of all sorts of ages and ethnicities. It was a beautiful picture of what reconciliation can look like, and it was a lot of fun for him too!



Interested in **Outtatown**?
Check out the Outtatown Visit Day on November 17.

See cmu.ca/campusvisit.
Apply before Nov. 30 and have your application fee waived.
See cmu.ca/apply.



An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:9-11



The Missions, Peace & Justice committee shares this thank you letter they received recently:

Dear Sponsors,

I wanted to take the time to thank you all for sponsoring me as I served at Camp this summer. Your generous donation is much appreciated and it will go to my college fund to further my education. I am so grateful for your willingness to give.

I learned a lot this summer as I worked with friends and fellow staff members, and developed my faith more as a Christian. God showed me so much in those six weeks, through songs, prayers, nature, and people. It was such a rich and unique learning experience and I grew a lot as an individual. I feel like I really found out more about who I am and what God has planned for me in the future.

Lifeguarding is a strenuous job, both physically and mentally, but I felt very supported and that helped me succeed in keeping campers safe in the pool. I will definitely be going back next year!

Again, thanks so much for the money. I am very thankful to have been God's humble servant and I promise this money will go to good use.

God bless,

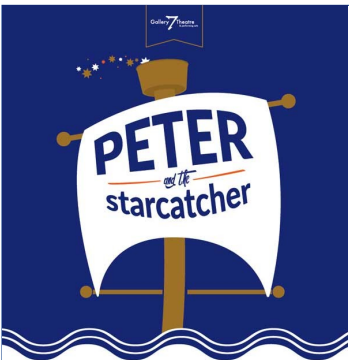
Sophia Leis

So Much to be THANKFUL for

Photos submitted by Waltrude Gortzen



Thank you to all those who baked or brought in bread for our Thanksgiving display. Thanks also to Vanj Thiessen for bringing in the wheat, oats and barley and arranging it all so beautifully!



The Exciting Prequel to Peter Pan
PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER
by Rick Elice | Based on the novel by
Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.
Music by Wayne Barker

November 10 & 11,
15 - 18, 2017 @ 7:30 PM
Matinees: November 11 & 18 @ 2 PM
Abbotsford Arts Centre, 2329 Crescent Way

A young orphan and his mates are shipped from England to a far off-island. On the voyage, they meet the precocious Molly, a Starcatcher-in-Training, who tells them that a certain trunk on board carries a magical cargo that must not fall in to the wrong hands. When their ship is attacked by the fearsome pirate, Black Stache, a thrilling adventure ensues where unwilling comrades unite and unlikely heroes emerge. This Tony Award-winning play explores the depths of greed and despair as well as the bonds of friendship, duty and love. It's a perfect adventure for the entire family !



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
John 3:16-17



What's Happening.

AT EMMANUEL

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

- Nov. 7:**
7pm-Service, Peace & Justice committee meeting-library
7:30pm-Education committee meeting-fireside room
- Nov. 10: 11:30am**-Memorial Service for Alfred Buhr
- Nov. 13: Office closed for Remembrance Day**
- Nov. 14: 7:30**-Worship Committee meeting-library
- Nov. 21: 7pm**-Council meeting-library
- Nov. 25: 9am-9pm**-Central Valley Academy of Music Recitals and Christmas Concert-Emmanuel Sanctuary
- Nov. 26: 10:30am**-Mennonite Church BC & CBC Joint Service at Emmanuel, with lunch in the gym following worship.
5pm-Seniors Fellowship-banquet room
- Nov. 27: 7:30pm**-Choir practice begins, every Monday evening until Christmas.
- Nov. 29: 10am**-Chai & Chat-fireside room
- Dec. 2: 6pm**-Emmanuel Christmas Banquet. You do not want to miss this year's banquet, "**True North Christmas**". Tickets on sale now at the Welcome Centre and at the church office. Adults \$10 / Kids 4-12 \$5 / 3 and under FREE. Buy your tickets and Save the Date!

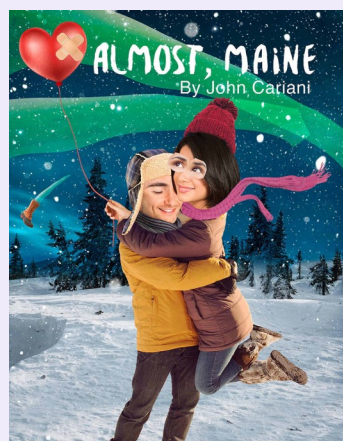
AROUND TOWN

- November 12, 3:00pm**, the Mennonite Historical Society of BC is hosting a Fall Fundraiser, "A Legacy: Alternate Responses to the Call to Arms." Please order tickets by November 8. More info at www.mhsbc.com.
- Nov 16 @ 7:00 pm - November 18 @ 2:00 pm**- Intro to Creation Care workshop at **A Rocha** Dig into theological themes of earth-keeping through study, discussion, and hands-on experience during this weekend-long workshop.. **For more info or to register**, <https://arocha.ca/event/intro-creation-care-workshop-surrey-bc/>
- Nov 19: 3:30pm**—Mennonite Church British Columbia presents: Symphony of Hymns 2—Featuring: Calvin Dyck (violin), Michael Berg (tenor) from the *Young Street Vocal Band*, and an ensemble of other musicians.
Level Ground Mennonite Church | 31216 King Rd; Abbotsford, BC V2T 6C2. An offering will be taken to strengthen church health & connections and for MCBC outreach ministries.
- Dec 20: 10am-Metzger Collection - CBC Resource Centre**
Come join us for a Christmas Coffee time in the Metzger Collection. There will be treats and refreshments! Anyone who is connected with MCBC or connected to an affiliate ministry like CBC is welcome! *We are a diverse group of people, and we don't get to connect and have fun together often – so this is our opportunity to say hello and thanks for all you do!!!*

Pacific Theatre present: **Almost, Maine.**

Beneath the cold December sky, something strange is happening in the town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights appear, a little magic illustrates how far away – and how close – we can be to one another. John Cariani's cozy anthology follows the residents of the fictional town of Almost as they grapple with the ins and outs of love in all its stages, from infatuation to heartbreak.

Directed by Kaitlin Williams.
Featuring Peter Carlone, Kim Larson, Giovanni Mocibob, Baraka Rahmani and Jalen Saip. Nov 24 - Dec 16 at Pacific Theatre. Tickets \$20 - \$36.50. Call 604.731.5518 or visit www.pacifictheatre.org to book.




December 24th Christmas Eve
10:30am –Morning Worship
6pm – Social – banquet room
7pm – Worship – Sanctuary

December 25th Christmas Day
10am - Worship – Sanctuary
Christmas Potluck Lunch following Worship

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.

The newsletter is published five times per year in the months of **June, September, November, February and April**. Thank you for reading and participating! If you have something you would like to share please e-mail waltrude@shaw.ca or send it to Roberta at the church office office@emmanuelmennonite.com

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE :
February 22nd



Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his^(a);
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalms 100