



in touch

April 2, 2017

Hesston Mennonite Church

A community of God's people, seeking and following the way of Christ, experiencing and sharing the good news of healing and hope.

Reflections from Staff Retreat

You might have noticed in the calendar of events there was a staff retreat on Thursday March 23. This is not the first staff retreat we have had and I am certain it will not be the last. They seem to fall around the same time as a transition in the staff team. However, we do have them also to touch base, to refocus, pay attention to what is shifting and changing as we work together.

John Simmering has been our facilitator for these days and activities. His gifts to us have been immense and in turn they benefit and bless the congregation. He keeps us moving, physically and mentally, engaging in perspective activities that help us to see in new and different ways.

The event we had last week was another way to strengthen our team. We worked together as staff to find our way on the path as we discover how it is to work together in our new configuration. We talk through what changes mean for us and how that impacts our work and engagement with the congregation. We learn more about ourselves and more about each other. These have been times to gain new insight, let some things go, open ourselves to working with one another, with renewed commitment. We pray the congregation sees and experiences the benefits of a team working well together.

Amy Nissley Stauffer

Primary Sunday School News

Each semester, the Primary Sunday School department focuses on a different offering project. We talk with the children about the agency or the program, and why money is needed. This semester we are giving to the **Refugee Resettlement fund**. Thank you parents, for helping the children support this project.

We have a **short-term need for a Sunday school teacher this summer**. This teaching position is for June-August, and could be a shared classroom. Please contact me if you or someone coming home for the summer might be interested in helping.

Carolyn Rychener, Primary SS Superintendent

Thank You Note

It is with much gratitude that we express our appreciation for the many prayers and thoughtful expressions of support members of HMC have extended to us. While on this recent journey of receiving health care away from home, we've been very mindful that we are not on life's journey alone. We also wish to sincerely thank those who shared their financial gifts to help with our unexpected expenses. An added lesson on this journey has been learning what it's like to be on the receiving end of people's generosity, as well as affirmation that God indeed is the one in control. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. We truly are grateful.

Don & Rachel Horst

The Mennonite—Subscriptions

If you are interested in joining our group plan and receiving The Mennonite each month, please contact the church office by **Monday, April 10**. New subscribers receive a 1-year subscription discount: \$30/year. HMC's discount rate for current subscribers is \$37. Order Forms below literature boxes.

New Hope Shelter Meals

Hesston Mennonite Church is responsible for meals on **April 12-15**. Contact Jean Selzer, 327-2430, if you can help to provide a meal.



New Hope Shelter, Inc.
Following Christ, Building the Community

The shelter currently needs 45-50 gallon trash bags, PineSol, Clorox Spray Cleaner, and 409 Cleaner.

Elder Minutes

March 16, 2017

Our meeting was opened with prayer by Jim Brenneman.

The devotions were given by Jay Unruh, in Darrell Jantz's absence. The words were a conversation between an editor from an electronic media entity, Wired Word, and a Pastor from a mega church. The topic was on the mindset of a church "consumer," wanting a church that meets his/her needs. Common is the concept of finding spiritual meaning online. But within this concept is the problem of missing so much power when we aren't face-to-face. The consensus in this conversation is Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 about lifting up another, that collaboration is better than going alone, and that corporate worship strengthens our faith. The minutes of March 2 were approved. Our pastors reports were given.

Gordon has been busy with gathering information and processing it. This is the most concentrated work for his time with us. He is also providing an electronic questionnaire for those who prefer it.

Clayton is preparing with a couple for their wedding and marriage. He reports that the basement reconstruction is progressing well, painting being the present activity.

Amy reported on pastoral care needs, addressed by all our pastors.

In Darrell's absence, a thank you card was prepared, as this was the last meeting in his term as elder. Renae Allison, attending her last elder's meeting of a 6 year commitment, was commended for her many gifts to our group.

Our meeting was ended with prayer by Renae.

*Respectfully submitted,
Barb Kaufman, Secretary for Elders*

Jerusalem Interterm Reflections

Bringing back hope for peace from visit to Holy Land—The time we spent in Israel, Palestine and Jordan was anything but idle.

Our group, consisting of seven Bethel students led by Campus Pastor Peter Goerzen, five students and two faculty from Tabor College, and 17 community members, spent each day traveling through the Holy Land – visiting the places where Jesus had walked, John had baptized and Moses had wandered. Beyond the traveling, we spent time with the people of this land, from all walks to life. We heard the pain, struggle and hope that fill their lives every day.

Our trip began in Jordan where we visited Petra, an ancient civilization dating back to as early as 300 BCE. The rose-colored canyons were littered with cave dwellings, streets paved by the Romans, the remains of a city infrastructure and, most incredible of all, the tombs and temples. The Treasury is the best-known of these – some may recognize it as the final setting for Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

As we moved west from Jordan into the West Bank, we crossed the natural border of the Jordan River. While here, we stopped by the spot on the river thought to be the place where Jesus was baptized. It was an incredible feeling to wade in (or in my case, fall in) to the water and imagine what happened there thousands of years before.

Our first main stop in the West Bank was Bethlehem, where we visited the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Fields. Being in the West Bank also provided a place to engage in conversation with people and organizations in the area.

At Wi'Am, a peacemaking center, we learned about how oppressed the Palestinians feel, living in restricted areas crawling with armed soldiers. It was a sobering moment for everyone as we walked along the wall that divides Israel and the West Bank, stepping over garbage, rubber bullets and empty tear-gas canisters.

Moving through these sacred lands gave us many opportunities to worship. A highlight for many was being able to sing in the many beautiful churches, chapels and cathedrals scattered through the land, filling the spaces with the sounds of four-part harmony.

The Sea of Galilee was the next stop on our journey. Highlights here included the Mount of Beatitudes, walking through a recreation of first-century Nazareth, sailing across the sea itself, and sharing in a Communion service on the shore.

After two weeks of constant traveling, it was nice to settle in to our hotel in Jerusalem, where we would stay for the remainder of our trip. One of the biggest highlights for us while in the Old City was to go out and explore for ourselves. From shopping and bartering with local shopkeepers to stuffing ourselves full of shawarma and kanafah, it was a prime place to experience the diverse and unique culture of the land. Other stops in Jerusalem included the Holocaust Museum, the Western (or Wailing) Wall, the Mount of Olives and the Israel Museum.

While in Jerusalem, we also attended a Kabbalat Shabbat service, a traditional Jewish service welcoming in the Sabbath. Before the service, we had the chance to speak with some members of the synagogue about Shabbat and their Jewish faith. Immediately, we saw how important family and heritage is to these people and how important returning to this land is for their faith and their lineage.

Cassie Voht reflected on the trip, "This was a really meaningful trip in terms of better understanding my faith and widening my world perspective. My most significant learning in terms of the conflict was not to 'import' the conflict to the United States, as in: Don't be pro-Israel or pro-Palestine; rather be pro-peace."

This idea of being an advocate of peace was echoed by many, regardless of nationality or religion. Since coming back to the States, the stories we heard and the injustice we saw are still fresh in our minds, but stronger than that is the message of a hope for peace in a troubled land.

Alec Loganbill

Thank You Note from MCC

Dear Hesston Mennonite,
Thank you so, so much for your impressive donation of towels to MCC! In the past two Sundays, HMC donated 112 beautiful bath towels, and 78 hand towels, for a grand total of 190 towels! As you can see, our towel closet is full once again. We will use these towels in Relief Kits and Hygiene Kits. Last year, MCC sent 3,562 Relief Kits to Jordan, and we are receiving additional requests for Relief Kits in refugee camps and areas of natural disasters. Your donations help us to fulfill these requests, and continue to promote relief, peace, and development in the name of Christ!



Thank you again,

Kate Mast, Workroom Supervisor, Material Resource Center

Upcoming Events

- Apr 4** HC Chamber Orchestra, Women's Chorus and Men's Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m., HMC sanctuary
- Apr 6** Community Meeting, 4:00pm, Hesston Area Senior Center. Program: Harvey County Drug Task Force.
- Apr 7-8** KS Mennonite Relief Sale, <http://kansas.mccsale.org/>
- Apr 9** Prairie Window Concert—Old Man Luedecke, 4:00p.m., order tickets through Dyck Arboretum.

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



| | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |



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