



in touch

May 21, 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.

Primary Sunday School News

Summer offering project for the Primary S.S Department

The offering project for children this summer is the Mennonite Mission Network's support of Bolivia Mennonites. There are eight Mennonite churches in and around Santa Cruz. Mennonite Mission workers prepare Sunday school and vacation Bible school materials that are used around the country, and trains others to teach. They also help the churches plan camps for children and youth.

From MMN's web site: Mennonite Mission Network supports a variety of ministries in Bolivia. One of the primary ways that mission happens is by sharing the good news of Jesus through friendships and loving our neighbors. In Bolivia, this happens by putting a lot of energy into teaching Sunday school and vacation Bible school. When our children share their offering money, they help other children learn about Jesus in many different ways.

- \$50 helps to provide children's Sunday school materials.
- \$25 helps 10 children to attend vacation Bible school to learn about Jesus.
- \$16 helps to train one young adult in the Sirviendo a Cristo (Serving Christ) program that teaches people about God and how to share God's love.

Teaching Our Children

One more teacher is needed this summer, for the month of August. We are combining classes, so that kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will be in the same classroom. Maybe you have a friend that would teach with you, or Carolyn Rychener will help you find a helper. These are wonderful and thoughtful children, ready to hear stories of Jesus, and the Bible.

It's not too early to think about next year! If you are ready to try something new, or return to something you have enjoyed in the past, let Carolyn, Rachel Yoder, or Amy Nissley Stauffer know! We would love to have you help with this important mission of our church.

New Books in the Library

Adult Fiction

Dear Mr. Knightley

Katherine Reay

Children's Books

Thankful

Eileen Spinelli

Pirates on the Farm

Denette Fretz

I Am Helen Keller

Brad Meltzer

I Am Martin Luther King, Jr.

Brad Meltzer

When God Made You

Matthew Paul Turner

Last Stop on Market Street

Matt de la Pena

Little Blue Chair

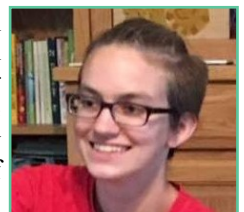
Gary Fagan

Ministry Inquiry Program—Erika Byler

Hello! Many of you may know me from my time at Hesston College just over a year ago. I studied Theatre at Hesston College and now I am a Communications major with a Theatre minor at Bluffton University.

Now that may not sound like the typical set of majors that would apply for something like the Ministry Inquiry Program, but I've been feeling nudges toward pastoral ministry since my first semesters at Hesston. Just recently I've felt those nudges grow a bit stronger so I decided I should probably look into what this possible calling is.

I can't say that I have vast experience in biblical literature, but I have been fascinated with the story of the Bible for a while now. In fact, I frequently have the Heilsgschichte timeline drawn on my arm, as a sort of reminder to myself of the story that I am everyday a part of.



This summer I am hoping to explore the role of a pastor by working with the pastors at Hesston Mennonite Church. I always felt welcomed and at home when I attended HMC when I was a student at Hesston and I wanted to return to that welcoming environment while exploring this new opportunity.

At school, between classes and rehearsals for choirs and theatre, I don't often get a lot of free time, but when I do I like to read, draw, and watch movies. I also love playing board, card, and video games with friends.

I grew up in Shipshewana, IN in a fairly large family. I have six siblings, two of which are married. As of two weeks ago I also have two nephews, the older of which is two and a half. Because of this large family environment I love being around people and get lots of energy from playing somewhat loud rambunctious games with friends and family.

Erika Byler

Families—please sign up for Hesston Community Vacation Bible School today!
You can find the registration form on the Hesston Community VBS Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/HesstonCommunityVacationBibleSchool

Council Minutes

April 13, 2017

Minutes from the March 9, 2017 meeting were approved.

I. Commission Chair Reports

A. Fellowship and Service Commission

Sunday, May 7 will be a noon meal, picnic style with grilled hamburgers. Funds raised will go to help defray expenses for delegates going to Mennonite Church USA Convention in July.

Sunday, June 25 will be a church-wide kickball tournament. This will be organized in such a way that it will be an inter-generational event.

In the month of July there will be another ice cream social. Potentially on July 16.

B. Education Commission

Amy Sharp will be taking new pictures of the children in the coming weeks.

C. Gifts Discernment Commission

Work is on-going to fill one male and one female Elder position.

D. Finance Commission

The finance commission has been working on how to pay back member loans. There are a total of 17 mortgage loan holders in the congregation.

Sara Jantz shared a letter which will be sent to the mortgage loan holders to let them know the process of paying off member loans. We need to find a good way to let the congregation know that we are still paying off member loans.

E. Facilities Commission

The basement is painted and the new gas fireplace is installed. Now some electrical and laminate work is ready to be done. Most of the work should be done by the end of April or the beginning of May.

Saturday, May 20 is a church work day.

Thursday, April 20, is Hesston College LarkFest. Gary Boese and 3 commission members will be supervising 16 college students in work around the church.

Might there be interest in Sunday Schools adopting a flower bed around the church?

F. Outreach Commission

The commission is currently reviewing the policy for the Service Investment Fund.

II. Other Business

A. "Congregational Ministry in the Face of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence Seminar" will be held at First Mennonite in Hutchinson on April 29. Sara Jantz and Jay Unruh are attending from HMC.

B. The Welcome Center is being revamped with the addition of visitor bags for persons seeking a church home. What should be added to the bag? We need to be more intentional with visitors.

III. Ending Devotional

LaMar Bender shared reflections on Mark 10:45 and how Jesus came to serve. In what ways are we called to serve?

Megan Smith ended with a prayer.

Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting: May 11, 2017.

Recorder, Ken Rodgers

Council Minutes

May 11, 2017

Vicki Hoffman shared reflections from Ephesians 3:20-21. God will work through us to accomplish things in his kingdom.

Minutes from the April 13, 2017 meeting were approved.

I. Commission Chair Reports

A. Fellowship and Service Commission - Vicki

Ice Cream Social is on the calendar for July 17.

June 25: Kickball tournament will be held at the City Diamond

B. Education Commission – Rachel Yoder

VBS Update- Susan Lamb and Katelyn Boese reported to Rachel that plans are coming along well. Still need volunteers to serve as guides. A joint community church service at the High School on Sunday June 4th as a culmination of the week.

27 people attended the training on Saturday, May 6th done by Kathy Weins on various topics related to working with children in the congregation.

Sara Jantz and Jay Unruh attended conference on April 29th on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse in the church.

C. Finance Commission

Sara Jantz gave a budget update.

D. Facilities Commission - Gary Boese

Larkfest Work Day – 12 Hesston College students helped Gary with landscaping around the church.

Gary talked with Andy Wray about working on medical kits: there was a need expressed for updated and more accessible medical kits in case of emergencies.

Work/Cleanup Day - Saturday, May 20th.

II. Other Business

SCC Annual Meeting Opportunity (July 21-22, at HMC)

Visitor welcome bags are being worked on. Bag will have information, map of church, and a small loaf of bread.

Gordon's Assessment was sent out last week and a church wide meeting will be held on May 21 in order to go over this in more detail.

Amy: Erika Byler approached church about doing MIP (Ministry Inquiry Program) with HMC this summer. She will start June 5 and will be here through August 18th.

Council ended by touring the finished basement. Megan Smith ended with prayer. Next Meeting: June 8, 2017.

Recorder, Jen Smalley

HMC Kickball Classic

Sunday, June 25, 5:30 p.m.

Hesston City Ball Diamond

Mark your calendars for a fun, intergenerational event for those of all ages! More details and registration information to come!



Thank You from the Sharps

Thank you for standing with us and walking with us on this unprecedented journey.

We are deeply grateful to you our congregation for your unparalleled support during the weeks we have walked a deep valley of pain and loss. The pastoral and office staff accommodated MJ's memorial service on the busiest weekend of the year. Our Sunday school class--and many others--brought us food, organized and managed our kitchen while we entertained many guests from around the world. You have all surrounded us, carried us, and prayed for us. You have donated funds for the service and to the MCC memorial fund. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Our grief and pain has continued beyond our expectations with the release of a video showing the executions of MJ and his colleague Zaida. It extends the darkness of this devastating conclusion to MJ's life and keeps it ever before us. In addition there are many calls for investigations (which we want) and justice (whatever that means in this case). So our journey is far from over. Thank you for standing with us and for walking with us.

We will attend the memorial service for Zaida Catalan in Kalmar, Sweden. The friend who his making this possible is also taking us to his hotel in Romania for a week of R & R. We look forward to this change of scenery and a different pace of life.

John and Michele Sharp

10,000 Children Served Through Care Portal

In Matt Redman's worship song 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord), he cries out:

**For all your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find.**

Today, we celebrate the 10,000. The reasons for celebration are not abstract, but personal. The reasons have names, smiles and laughs. Bearers of God's image.

These 10,000 are the children served through CarePortal. Not the forgotten but the remembered, and the untold ripples of generosity will shape their lives both today and tomorrow. Their testimony will include the presence of the local church in a moment of crisis.

Thank you for continued investment in the lives of the vulnerable. Your efforts to serve mirror the actions of the Good Samaritan, who understood how to show mercy to those encountered on life's journey is the embodiment of loving one's neighbor. What a privilege to serve with you!

And we believe the Lord is just getting started!

New counties and states are inquiring about launching CarePortal. Local churches are engaging with child welfare agencies in new ways. Individuals at participating CarePortal churches are increasingly serving those in the foster care system: some as foster parents, some as CASAs, others in unique ways. May God continue to guide us in our pursuit of His heart.

If you are looking for more information, contact Kendra Alison at Kendra.alison606@gmail.com or (316)200-8807.

New Hope Shelter Needs

Current Needs: Toilet Paper, NEW Men's and Women's Underwear (all sizes), NEW Men's and Women's T-Shirts and Shorts (all sizes). All items can be delivered to 900 W. Broadway, Building 7, Newton, KS.

Next dates for HMC Meals/staffing: June 21-24

MCC Material Resource Center Needs

The MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton, Kansas is running particularly low on the following items: bottles of shampoo (13-24 oz.), bars of infant friendly/mild soap, infant sleepers/onesies (sizes 3-9 months), men's crew socks (white). Without these items, various kits cannot be completed so we need your help! Kit items can be dropped off at 121 E. 30th in North Newton or purchased online (Amazon Smile or other online retailers) and shipped directly to MCC. Questions? Please contact Kate Mast 316.283.2720, katemast@mcc.org.

Mini Comforter Blitz!

A Mini Comforter Blitz will be held on June 2 and 3 at MCC Central State Material Resource Center at 121 East 30th Street in North Newton. Pieced comforter tops will be tied and bound, and then distributed by MCC to those displaced by or seeking refuge from political unrest or natural disasters. The blitz will be open on Friday, June 2, from 1 to 8 pm, and on Saturday, June 3, from 8 am to noon. Bring a snack to share with others, and bring a sack lunch if you are staying over a mealtime. Drinks will be furnished. Need childcare? Please RSVP to Kara Klingenberg at 620-983-9003. Every age is welcome, from youths to senior citizens. See your church bulletin board for more information

MCC Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

We LOVE our volunteers! Calling ALL Mennonite Central Committee volunteers (workroom, warehouse, meat canning, Kansas Relief Sale, Et Cetera Shop and more) to join us for our Volunteer Appreciation BBQ on **June 7 from 5-7pm** in the MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton, Kansas. Check mcc.org/volunteer-bbq for more information. Please RSVP for the event by May 24 to Patsy Dirksen, 316.283.2720, patsydirksen@mcc.org. We hope to see you on June 7!

Upcoming Events

May 22 Red Cross Blood Drive, 11:30a.m.-6:00p.m., community center.

May 30-June 2 Hesston Community VBS

June 3 The public is invited to "Walk Sand Creek Trail Day," part of National Trails Day®. Water will be available for people and dogs at the trailhead at Memorial Grove on the Bethel College campus, dawn to dusk (6 a.m.-8 p.m.), courtesy of the Sand Creek Trail Committee.

Scientists Presentation - May 21st

Two distinguished scientists will be coming to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church in Goessel to speak and present their findings on their research and its connection to Mennonites.

Dr. Michael Crawford of the University of Kansas has been since 1979 collaborating with the Mennonite communities of Kansas on biological aging and the history of Alexanderwohl. He has published a book entitled "Different Seasons: Biological Aging among the Mennonites of the Midwestern United States." The Mennonite communities because of their past histories and unique life styles offer a unique opportunity to determine causes of complex diseases.

Dr. Francis McMahon, who has conducted research on the genetics of depression and schizophrenia will be visiting Kansas. He is Chief of the Human Genetics Branch of the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD. He is a highly distinguished physician, psychiatrist with specialties in risk for mood and anxiety disorders, methods of diagnosis and treatment. He has identified and mapped genes associated with bipolar disorders and schizophrenia. Dr. McMahon will give an address and explain his research and clinical diagnoses of mood disorders.

The public is invited to attend on Sunday evening, **May 21, 7:00 p.m.** for this free lecture.

Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp

Summer camps at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp are just weeks away (first youth camp begins June 11). This summer's theme, "Freedom" is based on Galatians 5:13. Campers will explore their faith in God focusing on a relationship with Jesus that gives us freedom to fully enjoy life. While many of our Wilderness camps are filled, there is still space to register for Resident Camp (3rd grade to Senior High)! Resident camp weeks are filled with hikes, games, great camp songs, worship times, arts and crafts and much more. For more information, visit (www.rmmc.org).

Bethel College Job Opening

Bethel College seeks a full-time director of development. Bachelor's degree required with 3-5 years' experience in funds solicitation or a combination of transferable experience. Send cover letter, resume and three professional references to: Fred Goering (interim vice president for advancement), fgoering@bethelks.edu; see full job description at www.bethelks.edu/why-bethel/people/career-opportunities/

Hesston College Explore Kansas! Trip

Hesston College alumni and friends are invited to take part in the annual Explore Kansas! trip, June 24-25. The 2017 overnight excursion includes a weekend of art, sports, cuisine, history, architecture, worship and music, with stops at or learning about 15 Kansas Wonders winners or finalists.

Leaving early Saturday morning, June 24, the chartered bus tour will include stops such as The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City), a first-class nationally-rated museum with 28,000 comprehensive artifacts.

The afternoon event will be Hesston College Day at the K for a 1 p.m. showdown between the Kansas City Royals and the Toronto Bluejays. Community members and those not participating as part of the weekend Explore Kansas! trip are also welcome to attend the Day at the K on their own, including a discounted ticket price of \$19 per person. Contact sheri.esau@hesston.edu or 620-327-8147 to reserve game tickets. Overnight lodging on June 24 will be at the Crowne Plaza Kansas City Downtown.

Sunday events include a tour at First Presbyterian Church in Topeka, which features the Tiffany Windows – an art wonder of exquisite stained glass windows installed in 1911 that depict biblical stories with incredible detail.

For afternoon entertainment, the group will take in the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus concert at the historic Grace Episcopal Church in Topeka.

Tour group participants will eat well throughout the weekend, including Saturday evening at Kansas City classic, Stroud's, for pan-fried chicken, and Sunday lunch at Woodyard Bar-B-Que, which was featured on The Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

Cost: \$160/person. **Reservations are encouraged as soon as possible, and no later than Friday, June 9,** as space is limited. No refunds will be made past the June 9 cutoff date. Contact Alumni Relations at 620-327-8109 to reserve a spot. See itinerary online at hesston.edu/exploreks.

in touch is published 1st and 3rd Sundays monthly. Items should be in the church office by **noon Wednesday** prior to publication.

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