

Evangel

the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Autumn 2013

Volume 68, Number 3

Conversations

By Katherine Jameson Pitts

"Can we talk?" Over treats at MCC sales, at table groups at national conventions, in "conversation rooms", during sharing time in worship, in all sorts of places I've noticed the longing to talk to one another – *really talk*. To share what we are thinking, doing and wondering about with our brothers and sisters and to hear their stories is a deep need we all share. But often there is little space or time for needed conversations in our busy, scattered lives.

That need is what PNMC's annual **Conference Communication Council** is designed to address. It's a time to sit around tables with leaders from other congregations and conference leadership and simply talk – about the issues that are facing us and the questions we have; about the best ways to approach challenges and our dreams for the future.

This year the Conference Communications Council will be held at Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard OR on **February 8, 2014 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**. Each PNMC congregation is invited to send one pastor and one lay leader. We will make web connections

available for those at a distance if needed.

Last year we engaged in discernment around sending delegates to Phoenix. This year we will follow up on where the learnings from that convention are leading us. We will have several conversation options modeled after the "conversation rooms" at Mennonite Church USA conventions. We will have the opportunity to select affinity tables to discuss issues that are important to you. We will worship and pray together for the life of our churches, our conference, and God's work in the world.

We'd like you to help identify what topics you would most like to discuss. Please send ideas and suggestions to kipitts@pnmc.org. We probably can't talk about everything – but we do have a lot to talk about! We look forward to this opportunity to think together about how God is speaking and leading in the Pacific Northwest.



Our Vision: Healing & Hope

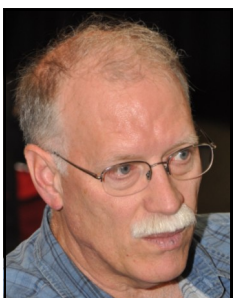
God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

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Building Community

By Jeryl Hollinger, Conference Moderator



When the PNMC board met **September 13 & 14** in Portland our secretary, Wanda Dorsing, led us in an opening exercise in which we had the opportunity to

learn something new about one another. She handed out cards on which we were to write down a fantasy dream profession that we've had. Once she had all the cards returned, she read them to us and we were to write down who we thought that person was. Laughter and looks went around the circle as we tried to guess the secret aspirations of one another. When she later revealed the answers, more laughter and stories followed. **Community and trust were being built.**

For any group to be effective in their task, it is important to learn to be open with one another and to feel safe in doing so. The issues involved in being church community or in being a conference board, bring out differences of opinion and perspective. Having these differences is beautiful and an essential reason for having a group work together. Sharing these differences is important because we make better decisions when everyone has been heard and all angles are examined – *when each person is valued for his or her presence, personhood and perspective.*

On Friday evening of our board meeting we broke into three small groups to brainstorm about our goals for the coming year. The meeting minutes are available online (pnmc.org) and the challenges we discussed are listed there. While each item on the list is important, there was one that especially caught my attention. The goal was: for our conference to be “a forum/safe place to talk at length about things we differ on.”

Such a goal should not be a lofty one for the church of Jesus Christ which is

committed to mercy and love. However, the church has not always been loving or merciful in the way differences are handled. We fear differences will bring on conflict and so it is avoided and suppressed. Coupled with the fact that our spirituality is often held in question when our perspectives do not match those of another, the church often becomes a place where talking together is most difficult.

The place where this becomes most relevant for me as moderator is in our conference assemblies and delegate gatherings. I have been wondering how we can build trust and how can we practice the giving and harmonizing of our insights so that a beautiful “sound” emerges. Perhaps a new model can be developed for our delegate sessions focused on becoming a safe place where we enjoy talking about things we differ on. It could be an avenue of discovery, learning, and growth for the church. My imagination runs away with me: I hear stories and laughter; I feel the joy. *It could be a worthy goal!*

Pastors Retreat



PNMC pastors, district pastors, chaplains, and spouses, are invited to gather at the Menucha Retreat Center in Corbett, OR. The two-day retreat will begin

with an evening meal **Sunday, March 2** and continue through supper on **Monday, March 3.**

Participants will have the opportunity to hear from Marlene Kropf, retired AMBS professor, who recently retired in Port Townsend, WA. Kropf will guide participants as they prepare to enter the Lenten season. Cost is \$80. Register by contacting [Barb Buxman](mailto:Barb.Buxman@pnmc.org) or 888/492-4216. *Space is limited to 35, so register early!*

Local Sales Support MCC



PNMC hosted regional Relief Sales in October to raise funds for MCC. The

[Mennonite Country Auction](#) took place **October 5** in Ritzville, WA and raised \$111,000. The [Oregon Festival for World Relief](#) took place in Albany, **October 12**, and raised \$101,000.

MCC sales require the hard work of dedicated congregations and countless volunteers to provide delicious food

options, freshly baked goods, household supplies, garden produce, children's activities and Fair-Trade gift items through Ten Thousand Villages. Sales include auctions featuring beautiful quilts, antiques, tools and more. *Mark your calendar for the [Idaho Sale, April 11-12, 2014](#), and plan a trip to Boise!*

To learn more about the OR sale:

[Photos of 2013 Sale by Don Bacher](#)
[Oregon Festival on Facebook](#)

To learn more about the WA sale:

[Mennonite Country Auction on Facebook](#)

To learn more about the ID sale:

[Idaho Mennonite Relief Sale on Facebook](#)
[Learn about Mennonite Central Committee](#)

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Autumn 2013

In an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible, this newsletter is issued electronically. If this creates difficulties, hard copies are available by request. Newsletters are published in April, August and November. The next deadline for submissions is March 1, 2014.

Grab a warm beverage and enjoy archived issues here: <http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel>.

Evangel is the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Newsletter submissions, feedback and subscription information can be sent to: *Evangel* Editor brenda@pnmc.org or PO Box 301036, Portland, OR 97294

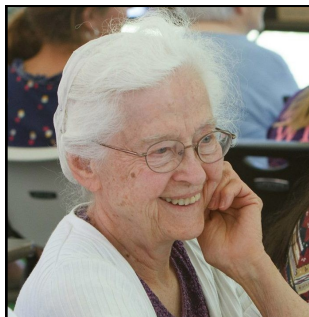
*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
New mercies I see.
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.*



Goshen College Professor of history, John D. Roth, shared at the MVMC 100th Anniversary.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION – PURSUING PEACE Celebrating 100 years in the Flathead

By Margaret Kauffman



My diary says: "September 19, 2012 – centennial planning." A year and days later **September 27, 2013** arrived and we were ready! The food tent was erected in the front lawn, the BBQ grill was set up in the back yard, the fellowship hall was full of tables covered with memorabilia, the walls were covered with pictures and newspaper articles, quilts covered some walls, the kitchen was buzzing with activity, the weather was nice and our doors were open. It was exciting to see people

"come home to Mountain View Mennonite Church" from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Minnesota, Saskatchewan, Alberta, other parts of Montana, etc.

Some special items on the tables were: a gas lantern used in the old church building, communion cups, the handmade wooden attendance/offering board which was used for 62 years, a copy of the deed for the church's land purchase, the old pulpit, original church pews, the church clock with a bullet hole in it (that's another story), record books, scrapbooks, minutes from the first 'sewing circle' and 'literary' etc. Posters illustrated our present outreach activities.

The celebration began Friday night as we carried pie and ice cream to the tent and enjoyed 'story time'. Saturday morning we gathered outside around tables for *The Garden Party*. "What is a garden party?" was a question we frequently heard. Some fun activities were enjoyed as we focused on gardening and nature and got acquainted with everyone. Plans were shared about a small, peace garden area we hope to create in the future.

Mountain View Mennonite Church has no church cemetery so we planned guided tours to three local cemeteries in the afternoon. At 4:00 the worship auditorium was full and ready for a rousing hymn sing. In the past 100 years we have used eight hymn books beginning with the old Church and Sunday School Hymnal. Songs were selected from all

eight books and the building was filled with music. It was called to a halt when it was announced, "Dinner is being served!" A delicious barbecued chicken dinner was served.



A local community choir, Crown of the Continent, joined us for the evening service. Our new Peace Quilt initiative was introduced. We have created a beautiful wall hanging which will be a traveling quilt in our community honoring an individual or organization focused on peacemaking. Our guest speaker, John D. Roth, history professor at Goshen College, blessed us as he spoke on "Planting Sequoias: The Slow Work of Christian peacemaking" and shared stories about our Mennonite heritage.

Sunday morning an intergenerational panel of four people discussed "MVMC through the years." Included with their stories of experiences at Mountain View, emphasis was given to how they remember the church practicing its peace witness in their era. Greetings were shared and a time capsule was opened. After the centennial choir sang two songs, John Roth again challenged us as he spoke on the theme "Is the Gospel of Peace still relevant?"

A potluck noon meal was served and it was time to say goodbye to those who came to celebrate with us. *What a memorable weekend we had together!* Our work is not over – we plan to print a book capturing the past and the centennial celebration.



Summer 2013 at Camrec

By Juli VanPelt

Camp Camrec held three sessions for youth this summer: Junior/Senior High camp (**July 8-13**) and Junior camp (**July 16-20**) which were directed by Ria Jewell (*center, in photo above*), and Pre-Junior weekend camp (**July 26-28**) directed by Sylvia Jantz. The Junior/Senior High camp had 19 campers who enjoyed discussions lead by Pastor Jonathan Neufeld, and creative arts and crafts with Darcy Cooper and Anita Stokes. Isaac Entz kept the group activities lively and entertaining. Tubing down the Wenatchee River was a camp highlight! week. We are grateful and inspired by the combination of energy and thoughtfulness displayed by both staff and campers of this age span.

The Junior Camp was a wonderful week and filled to capacity, with more than 40 campers. Campfire singing was energetic with Otoniel Soto leading the worship songs. Campers were busy with crafts, swimming in Lake Wenatchee, group games, and cabin time. Pastor Gary Jewell was the Bible teacher, and Anita Stokes organized the nature activities, including a guest speaker from the Audubon society, who led a session focusing on the native birds. Pre-Junior camp was a full weekend with many parents and family members stepping in to help with programming for kids ages 6-9. Pastor Meg Lumsdaine coordinated the Bible lessons, and

campers enjoyed learning about God and nature during this fantastic introduction to the camping experience.

The summer camp program at Camrec is an amazing way to connect with God, nature, and friends. It is a blessing for all who participate. *Please consider how you can connect with our camps next summer; whether as a camper, on staff, or as a volunteer.*

Camrec held its second annual Birds and Blossoms Retreat on June 13-16. A group of 15 nature enthusiasts came to study the native species of birds and flowers that were displayed in abundance during this weekend. Although the bird expert cancelled at the last minute, Linda Graber offered a water color in nature class that was well received. Some folks also enjoyed organizing all the collected flower photos with identifications in the computer. The camp participants enjoyed delicious meals, children's activities, and fellowship time as well as solitude and quiet reflection time. This retreat was a great way for individuals and families to kick-off their summer outdoor adventures.

Camrec includes 240 acres, bordered on three sides by the Wenatchee National Forest. This area is at high risk for wildfires due to years of fire suppression. Fortunately, Jim Eby, Harold Neufeld, Maurice Briggs, our camp manager, Richard Schellhaas, our consulting forester, and others have worked hard to develop a forest

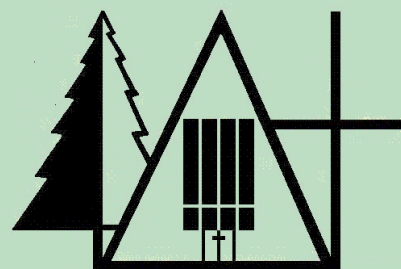
stewardship management plan, apply for cost sharing funds, secure permits, flag boundaries, and select loggers. We expect these efforts to culminate this fall with a commercial thinning of marketable timber followed by a non-commercial thinning to remove diseased trees and other ladder fuels. So don't be surprised if the landscape looks a little different on your next visit!

Upcoming Activities

Dec. 6-8: Men's Retreat

For registration materials and information on these events and other Camrec programs, please go to:

<http://camrec.org/>



Blessed in the NW PNMC Finance Report - Autumn 2013

By Harold Nussbaum, PNMC Treasurer

This season of harvest is a **time of gratitude** for PNMC. We are blessed this year to be able to report a surplus of almost \$14,000 through September, rather than our budgeted shortfall of more than \$20,000. Congregational giving is at 103% of budget, compared to 94% at the same time last year, although it is almost \$5,000 lower than last year. Other Income benefitted from a one-time estate gift of almost \$28,000 from Clarence and Ruth Reeser.

The end of September means we are eight months (67%) through the PNMC fiscal year. Expenses are only 96% of budget for this period due to ongoing close attention by the staff and board. *A summary of the General Fund income and expense as of September 30 is shown right.*

In order to move PNMC toward longer-term financial sustainability, congregations have been asked to increase their annual contributions by 7%. Several congregations have already taken this step. *Individual contributions are always helpful.*

September 2013 Year to Date Budget

	September Year to Date			Total Year	
	Actual	Budget	%	Budget	%
Church Contributions	\$79,948	\$77,815	103%	\$132,004	61%
Other Income	\$33,112	\$3,989	830%	\$8,785	377%
Total Income	\$113,060	\$81,804	138%	\$140,789	80%
Total Expenses	\$99,246	\$103,744	96%	\$161,374	62%
Income vs. Expense	\$13,814	\$(21,940)		\$(20,585)	

It is not to early to begin thinking about end-of-year giving.

Individual contributions can greatly help support the work of PNMC. Contributions can be sent to: PNMC, P.O. Box 301036, Portland, OR 97294. Online gifts using debit or credit cards are welcome at www.pnmc.org.

Did you know....



...that in the past year PNMC District Pastors and ECM have assisted six congregations during pastoral transitions? PNMC supports the ministry of our pastors through retreats, pastor cluster meetings, the guidance of the Pastoral Leadership Team and relationships with District Pastors. **We have 45 pastors in active ministry in PNMC.**



Lay leaders in PNMC get new ideas as we connect with others facing the same challenges. This year we met in affinity groups at Conference Communications Council and held ten workshops and four training sessions at our Annual Meeting in June.

Mark your calendar:

Conference Communications Council
February 8, 2014
Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR.

Visit the PNMC Facebook page
for photos and upcoming events.
(no sign-in required)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Northwest-Mennonite-Conference/234830199869321>



Friends far and wide,
near and far...

*You are invited to celebrate
the ministry of*
Weldon & Marg Nisly



Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013

Gathering at 5:30 p.m.

Seattle Mennonite Church
3120 NE 125th St. Seattle, WA 98125

Potluck supper - last names A-M bring salads,
N-Z bring desserts, (main course provided)

Program - if you would like to offer Weldon and
Marg a word or song, a tribute or dance, please
contact [Jonathan](mailto:Jonathan@seattlemennonite.org) at 206-361-4630 ext. 7.

RSVP please contact [Marsha](mailto:Marsha@seattlemennonite.org) at 206-361-4630.

Sunday, Nov. 17th, 2013
Worship & Fellowship Hour
10:00 a.m.
Seattle Mennonite Church

www.seattlemennonite.org

Women's Retreat at DCC



Carol Honderich, (left), spent her childhood alongside her mother at quilting frames. In her adult years, she has found ways to stitch her passion for quilting into her Church Relations role at Mennonite

Mission Network, where she has served since 1998.

Honderich's love for quilting has developed into a unique ministry which allows her to express her faith through quilt design. Through careful thought and study, she creates quilts that are not only beautiful, but rich with meaning.

Since 2005 she has been formally sharing her work designing, teaching, speaking and moderating active on-line groups. She has been blessed with opportunities to share with groups across the country and with people around the world. She has found that quilting is not only a useful way to express personal reflection on God's teachings, it is also perfect for building community. *Relationships grow naturally working side by side to create beauty.*

Carol has developed an avid on-line community. The seeds for this rapidly expanding spiritual forum were sown in 2000 when a dozen women, employees in Mennonite Mission Network's Great Lakes office, began a study of Ann Spangler and Jean Syswerda's book, [Women of the Bible](#). The group studied one woman of the Bible each week for a year and Honderich designed a traditional block for each woman (pictured above right). She has learned lessons from the women whose stories she has studied and stitched. Biblical women struggled and some seemed too good to be true, but they all were human. Honderich encourages women to think about their relationships with other women and compare them to stories in the Bible. She explains, "God shows us, and



PNMC women are invited to hear Carol Honderich at the 2014 Women's Retreat, April 4-6, at Drift Creek Camp.

the Word tells us what God's hope is for us in our relationships. We sometimes think of Biblical women as being perfect, but their stories reveal that they weren't. I love how women connect with these stories when they realize that we aren't so different now."

Through workshops, Honderich encourages women to reflect on relationships including siblings, co-workers, neighbors, in-laws, women at church, etc. Then also look at relationships with tried and true lifetime friends or the soul sister relationship – the woman who is a sister in every sense of the word, who can love us in every life stage, with whom we share faith, our passions, and our history. *This is God's ideal.*

Brice Larson began as youth leader;
Leah Yoder began as community center coordinator
October 1, 2013 at Salem Mennonite Church.

Mathew Swora will begin as lead pastor Jan. 14, 2014
at Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR.

Gordon Scoville will begin as intentional interim pastor at
Seattle Mennonite Church in January, 2014.

PNMC
Ministerial Updates

Church Connections

Logsden Neighborhood Church (OR)

By Duane Roth

"My house will be called a house of prayer."

The broader context of these words of Jesus in the Gospel accounts is one of rebuke, yet they take on special meaning in these days at the Logsden Neighborhood Church. This past year has been an exciting time for our congregation as we have seen God open many doors of opportunity to minister to families in our community, some who are now attending our church. We attribute it entirely to the result of intentional, concerted prayer by our congregation asking God to move in fresh ways in our church and community, then seeing the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father in graciously responding to the desire of our hearts.

The Logsden Neighborhood Church began as a Sunday School outreach to the Logsden community in the summer of 1950 by several families from the Sheridan Mennonite Church. These families felt the call of God on their lives to begin a pioneering ministry in the Siletz Valley, and for several years drove back and forth from Sheridan on Sundays to provide a Sunday School for the children of the community. At one time seventy children were transported by cars or vans to Sunday School to hear the good news of Jesus. They met each week at the Logsden Community Club, which still exists today and is located just one mile from our current church building. Eventually eight acres were purchased, a church built, and weekly Sunday School and worship services provided. Over the years the church has been a consistent light in the community that many people turn to in times of need.

The church provides community activities throughout the year. These include the annual Valentine's banquet in February, as well as an outdoor barbecue and bluegrass festival in July. Both of these events have been well attended and are intentional outreaches of our church in blessing the people of our community. We are seeing that the people of this community who may seldom, if ever, attend a Sunday church service are coming on a regular basis to



Baptism in the Siletz River which is located near the church. Photo includes Pastor Duane Roth (left), Jesika Cummins (center), and Dan Cummins. Below: Original meeting location.



these events. We are praying that the next step for them will be to allow the church family to minister to them on a weekly basis through regular participation in other church ministries.

The people of Logsden Neighborhood Church are very active in the ministries of the church throughout the week. We have numerous home groups meeting weekly on Wednesday nights, some of which have a fellowship meal together before the focus of study. There are women's ministries meeting weekly, as well as a men's accountability group meeting on Friday mornings. All of these ministries are for the purpose of providing paths into the church for people who are unsure of their commitment level but want to be involved in some form of weekly activities. These ministries are designed for those who may have skepticism toward the church but will allow themselves to be ministered to in a more casual setting.

We here at Logsden are thankful to be part of building God's Kingdom in the

mountainous region of the Oregon Coast. At times the task seems overwhelming and daunting – even painfully slow, yet we are seeing spiritual fruit springing forth all around us. We will continue to seek God as the Source from whom all blessings flow, and believe that in Him and through Him all things are possible.

**Logsden
Neighborhood Church**
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.
www.logsdenchurch.org
The church today:



PNMC Board of Directors

Jeryl Hollinger
Moderator, 2014

Jennifer Delanty
Mod-Elect, 2014

Wanda Dorsing
Secretary, 2015

Harold Nussbaum
Treasurer, 2014

Eva Mendez
CIHAN, 2014

Jerry Barkman
At-Large, 2015

Sarah Hooley
At-Large, 2016

Joseph Penner
At-Large, 2016

Jennifer Sottolano
At-Large, 2014

Jack Swaim
At-Large, 2016



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above icon.

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PNMC District Pastors

Wendell Amstutz: Oregon CIHAN, Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Salvación, Iglesia Menonita Pentecostés, Ministerios Restauración, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita

Charlene Epp: Anawim Christian Community, International Bethel City Church, Zion Mennonite

Renee Johns: Evergreen Heights Mennonite, Filer Mennonite,

Gary Jewell: Evergreen Mennonite, Menno Mennonite, Prince of Peace Mennonite, Seattle Mennonite, Warden Mennonite

Brent Kauffman: Albany Mennonite, Bend Mennonite, River of Life Fellowship

George Leppert: First Mennonite Aberdeen, Hyde Park Mennonite

Al Lind: Calvary Mennonite, Eugene Mennonite, Pacific Covenant Mennonite, Portland Mennonite

Cecil Miller: Mt. View Mennonite, Shalom Church, Spring Valley Mennonite

Lynn Miller: McMinnville Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, Western Mennonite

Duane Oesch: Emmaus Christian Fellowship

Dave Stutzman: Corvallis Mennonite, Lebanon Mennonite, Logsden Neighborhood Church, Peace Community Mennonite

Our Mission Statement is to:

Promote personal spiritual development,

Nurture healthy congregations,

Make strong connections, and

Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.

PNMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Nov. 8-10, *DCC's Annual Meeting & Family Camp*, Lincoln City, OR

Dec. 6-8, *WA Men's Retreat*, Camp Camrec, Leavenworth, WA

Feb. 8, 2014, *Conference Communications Council*, Hubbard, OR

March 2-3, *Pastor's Retreat*, Menucha Retreat Center, Corbett, OR

April 4-6, *OR Mennonite Women's Retreat*, Lincoln City, OR

April 11-12, *Idaho Mennonite World Relief Sale*, Nampa, ID

June 20-21, *PNMC Annual Meeting*, Kalispell, MT

July 19-20, *Filer Mennonite Church's 100th Anniversary*, Filer, ID

July 19-20, *Prince of Peace Mennonite Church's 25th Anniversary*, Anchorage, AK

Aug 3-8, *MCC West Coast Bike Ride*, Idaho Panhandle

* Details for the events above can be found on the PNMC Calendar (pnmc.org/Calendar) or in archived e-Bulletins (pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin).

The *PNMC e-Bulletin* is distributed bi-monthly and includes information about PNMC and church wide agencies. To subscribe, send an email to brenda@pnmc.org with "Subscribe e-Bulletin" in the subject line.



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Mennonite
Conference

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