

Evangel

the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Winter 2014

Volume 69, Number 3

Changing Times

By Katherine Jameson Pitts

The church is changing. Things are shifting. Someone compared the times we are living in to a new reformation. We see the historical Christian denominations that have anchored so many religious institutions in our country splintering. We watch mega-churches, the success stories of the last few decades in church growth, collapse in on themselves in just a few months. As our society becomes more diverse, the segment of the population that is Christian (of any kind) becomes smaller every year. And our own denomination is struggling with what our future will look like. Congregations have left; conferences are voting on many different kinds of resolutions to describe their relationship to the whole. Even though we know that God will never abandon us, we feel things changing.

Everyone feels betrayed. Some thought that we all were making unchanging covenants with one another to uphold our written documents. Others thought the documents were a starting point for conversation and that our covenant was to continue that dialogue together. Some feel clearly that they know where God is leading. Others are torn between friends and

family, between competing values rooted in their faith, between a desire to be faithful to the past and a desire to be open to God's future. Even though we know that we are blessed beyond measure by our fellowship together, we feel betrayed somehow.

I don't know what God's future holds for us any more than you do. But I know that we are held and blessed by our loving Lord. And so I invite you back to the words Palmer Becker used to describe what it means to be an Anabaptist Christian.

**"Jesus is the center of our faith.
Community is the center of our life.
Reconciliation is the center of our work."**

Each and every congregation of PNMC gathers in the light of Christ. In each and every congregation of PNMC people are cared for, listened to, and nurtured in faith. Each and every congregation of PNMC listens for the whisper of the Spirit to guide them in the world in the way of peace. I am grateful to know of the many and diverse ways you live out the gospel. I believe that each PNMC congregation is part of God's mission in the world.

My hope and prayer for you and for all of us, as we end this year and turn toward a year in which changes will continue to happen in ways we can't predict, is that we would embrace this

vision as who we are as Pacific Northwest Mennonite Church. May Jesus stand in our midst speaking his words of peace, breathing on us his Spirit. May we live our lives for others, loving our neighbors and dwelling in unity as members of Christ's body. May we extend the hand of peace to those around us, that they to might discover the One who makes all things new and whole.

As the Conference Communication Council gathers for conversation in January, I invite you to pray for these leaders from our many congregations. As we share with one another our stories, and listen to one another with care. It is our hope that God will give us light for the next step in our journey, *together*.

In This Issue

Local Ministry/Organization	2
Volunteers Among Us	3
Spiritual Renewal Week at WMS	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Pastor's Reflections	6
Spring Valley's 90th Anniversary	7
Calendar & Directory	8

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.

NW México Ministry

By Curt Dorsning

God is moving in the Mennonite churches of NW Mexico and much has been accomplished. Thanks to PNMC funds, a new church has been constructed in El Refugio, Sinaloa. Now our brothers and sisters can finally meet inside a church building! This was a combined effort from the local congregation, six U.S. volunteers, and nine courageous workers from several different churches in the Durango, Mexico Mennonite colony. Local members of the El Refugio Church had completed the walls before volunteers arrived from the US. The US volunteers helped with the floor, doors and some electrical wiring. Our brothers from Durango built the trusses, installed insulation and completed the metal roof.

Though church construction is important, even more necessary is the ongoing teaching and training being done by various PNMC pastors including Simon Rendon, Samuel Moran, Rick Troyer and Miguel Castillo. NW Mexico Mennonite pastors and congregations are hungry for training; eagerly attending any available seminars. As a result, many new converts are being welcomed.

Las Lajitas, the sister church of Warden Mennonite, is experiencing explosive growth. This year they have added 85 new believers to their church of 35 and have outgrown their building. Their congregation is asking for funds and people to help construct a new building in **February 2015**. Material costs have been rising. Approximately \$40-45,000 will be needed to build a new sanctuary. This is a great opportunity to partner with our brothers & sisters in México by donating much-needed funds or volunteering on-site. Please remember this need in your Christmas and year-end offerings! Send funds to PNMC, earmarked **México Building Projects**. To volunteer, contact Curt Dorsning (509) 346-9302.

Photo: Inside the finished building, El Refugio, Sinaloa, June 2014.



New Medication Practice Increases Sustainability

By Whitney Olsen

Mennonite Home in Albany is the first of two skilled nursing facilities in Oregon to join a new medical recycling program, in which unused pharmaceutical drugs are collected and redistributed to people in need. Unused, unopened, qualified prescription medication through a California-based nonprofit called SIRUM, which sends it to Central City Concern, a nonprofit pharmacy that assists the homeless and poverty-stricken in Portland.

Every year, America's health facilities spend valuable time and money carefully following required protocols to destroy over \$700 million in unused prescriptions. The list of qualified medications includes many commonly used medications, ranging from painkillers to treatments for blood pressure, diabetes, seizures, and depression.

Mennonite Home Administrator Rob Hays learned about SIRUM through LeadingAge, a partnership of organizations that work with industries supporting older people. Mennonite Home recognized an opportunity to both reduce waste and help disadvantaged populations and made its first donation December 4. "It's something we've discussed for years, looking for an opportunity to handle these in a more ethical way," said Hays.

Patients at the facility don't finish their prescriptions for a number of reasons, Hays said. They may have an allergic reaction, or a physician can prescribe a new course of treatment, or the patient may transfer facilities, go home, or die before the medication is finished. Until now, the only course for such medications, even if never removed from their original containers, was to dispose of them. That's an ecological concern, as well as waste. For many years, a common practice has been to dispose of unused pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the toilet or pouring them down the drain. It is estimated that Mennonite Home disposes of thousands of dollars in unused medications each month.

State and federal laws impose strict regulations on how medication can be donated and to whom. SIRUM's program, therefore, is limited to certain medications that are in unopened, unexpired, individual-dose packaging. Blister packs with un-popped packets are okay, for instance, but a half-empty pill bottle is not. "**It's a big step in the right direction,**" said Hays. "We're very happy about it. It's very much in keeping with our mission to support the public in any way we can."

"Ideally, pharmacies, assisted living facilities, and other organizations could come into the program. For now, we're working to expand out partnerships with nursing homes," explained SIRUM. "Our dream is to see something like this all across the country because it's the same story everywhere we go with the surplus and the needs."

Mennonite Village began as a 24-room nursing home in 1947, operating under the name "Mennonite Home for the Aged." From the beginning, it was envisioned as a place where elders could live comfortably and receive peaceful, loving care as they grew older. That vision is in place today as the community continually expands its residential and health care services. *Follow this [link](#) to learn more about services offered by the Mennonite Village.*

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

In an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible, this newsletter is issued electronically. If this creates difficulties, hard copies are available by request.

The next deadline for submissions is March 1, 2015.

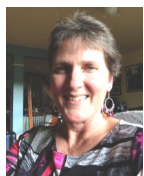
Grab a warm beverage and enjoy archived issues here: <http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel>.

**Pacific Northwest
Mennonite Conference**

Service Assignment Shapes Future Plans

Volunteers Among Us

By Jennifer Delanty, Conference Moderator



PNMC is blessed to have Mennonite Voluntary Service workers serving with non-profit organizations in our region. This is the first in a series of occasional portraits of volunteers and the organizations they serve. This initial article highlights a volunteer who is not only serving here, but also grew up in the Pacific Northwest.

Many volunteer service workers embark upon their service terms following college graduation, during what is known as the “freshman year of real life.” Small stipends, culture shock, and roommates across a spectrum of personality and background often comprise the volunteer service experience. One of the biggest challenges for **Ria Jewell of Spokane, WA**, is having to rely upon Seattle’s inefficient public transportation system.

“It is easy to get to downtown, but it can take me 1-2 hours one way to go other places,” she observed. “Another challenge is living on a limited budget/small stipend in an expensive city. This has pushed me to become creative and seek out ways to enjoy the city without spending money.”

Ria is the daughter of Gary Jewell and Jan Yoder, and volunteers at [Art with Heart in Seattle](#). This non-profit designs and publishes therapeutic books for children who have experienced trauma, whether through the loss of someone significant, divorce, domestic violence and abuse, or bullying.

The books are similar to journals, providing children an opportunity to draw and write, as they work through complex emotions that arise from trauma or dramatic change. According to statistics provided by this organization, 20% of children who experience violence, poverty, or the loss of someone important, develop psychological issues. To compound the issue, about 75-80% of that number do not receive the mental health services they need for healthy emotional development. Depression, anxiety, and an inability to trust others can result when trauma becomes locked away in

certain parts of the brain. Maladaptive, at-risk behaviors can also manifest when unhealed emotions and physical abuse remain trapped within the body.

The need in King County alone, where Seattle is situated, is great; an estimated 90,000 children are in early stages of traumatic stress. The books provide a neutral, “meant for me” forum for children to sort out and process their myriad emotions. The first book was developed for children in hospitalization, and the next book was offered for siblings of hospitalized children. A third book deals with grief and loss, and another was designed specifically for teenaged youth. Steffanie Long, Founder of Art with Heart, stated on the organization’s website, **“Children express their pain--and release it--so they don’t have to carry it into adulthood with them.”**

Art with Heart also develops curriculum for the books and offers trainings for professionals and volunteers who work with children. The materials are distributed to hospitals, schools, and mental health organizations. Art with Heart staff have traveled to Sandy Hook, CT twice this year to work with teenagers affected by younger siblings and friends killed late last year in an elementary school shooting.

Armed with a psychology degree from Eastern Washington University and desire to serve in an urban setting, Ria’s place-



ment at Art with Heart is an ideal fit.

“I think Art with Heart is an amazing organization to work for because they

see a need and do so much good within the Seattle area, along with communities elsewhere,” Ria enthused. “I work with a great bunch of women who all have similar vision and goals to positively help children overcome trauma and heal. My placement has given me the perspective of what the back scenes look like in making the kinds of materials we publish, along with what its like to work in an office.”

Ria is also considering pursuing a master’s degree in art therapy. She is the first Mennonite Voluntary Service placement for Art with Heart. Lucy Shirley, a former MVS volunteer placed with Washington Trails Association who now works at Art with Heart, recommended the organization obtain an MVS volunteer.

“Ria is a bundle of positive energy,” Lucy said, “and we are lucky to have someone who has this passion for art therapy, and is totally behind the mission of our organization.” Ria’s responsibilities include office support, directing volunteers for off-location events, and helping train and lead groups that work with kids in schools and special organizations that serve at-risk youth. She will work with two five-week programs beginning in January.

Lucy says another priority is getting Ria some hands-on experience working directly with kids as they interact with the books; this one-year volunteer service term is helping inform her discernment for graduate school.

“Through my placement, I have learned that I definitely want to work hands-on with children,” Ria stated. Her education is not limited to the office, however; volunteer service has many other lessons to impart.

“Learning to live simply has shaped my faith in frustrating yet beautiful ways by opening my eyes to be present in the moment and becoming engaged with my surroundings and community,” Ria reflected. “I can appreciate life in new and different ways and ultimately, God supplies my needs. It has been thus far a rewarding experience living in community with my housemates in the greater Seattle area and being able to connect to both the supporting churches, Seattle Mennonite Church and Evergreen Mennonite Church.”

For Seattle, Ria’s one-year term will pass far too quickly. For now, we are grateful to have her bright light shining in our midst.

Students Challenged to Deepen Faith

A Recap of Spiritual Renewal Week at Western Mennonite School



By WMS Student,
Harley Taylor, '16

Spiritual Renewal Week challenged and reaffirmed faith for Western students through times in the Word, worship, and fellowship. Four messages encompassed a central theme of **looking to God in all things**. The first message, given by Stephen Gantt, told of how he looked to God for redemption, cleansing, and forgiveness. The second speaker, Curt Bickley, shared how he looked to God to direct his steps according to His perfect will. Following that, Jon Lewellyn gave examples from the Bible of how the prodigal son and Saul looked to God to restore them through His unceasing love. Finally the concluding speaker, Victor Hess, '14, gave a personal testimony of how he developed a relationship with God through prayer. As the week closed, school leaders gathered to pray for student who boldly asked to rededicate or give their lives to Jesus. The value of these lessons brought a greater understanding to students as they reflected, discussed, and applied the meanings in their daily lives.

Youth pastor Stephen Gantt introduced himself as one who, like Western students, had attended chapels in his youth at a Christian school. He went further to say that, regrettably, he had spent many chapels simply counting the minutes. Gantt proceeded to share the incredible testimony of how, after being swept into drug use and damaging relationships, he came back to Christ at age 19. Gantt used his amazing story of redemption in Christ to point students to the freedom that is available through asking Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. His story inspired many students to turn in prayer and ask to be transformed by God's unceasing love, grace, and forgiveness.

Curt Bickley stirred the hearts of students when he told his story. Bickley discussed four of life's most pivotal decisions and how God continually had His hand in each, giving wisdom,

direction, and peace. He began by describing the Christian home of his upbringing and its influence on his decision to give his life to Jesus. Bickley discussed how the Lord led him to a specific college and to choosing to study secondary education. The last decision was how he had trusted God to lead him to the woman he would marry. Bickley tied these important decisions back to one idea, to trust an Almighty God to direct our paths. Bickley concluded his message with some simple steps of application, challenging students to rely on the Word of God; seek counsel from other Christians; pray continually, and most importantly, follow God's lead in all things.

Jon Lewellyn left Western students with an unforgettable message. He began by reading from Acts, telling of Saul's miraculous conversion as God confronted him with a shining light from heaven. Lewellyn laid down two foundational points that help people gain spiritual maturity: *the education they receive and experiences*. He used Saul as an example of an individual who knew who God was, but lacked the experience of what it meant to have redemption, grace, or mercy. Lewellyn proceeded to tell the cherished parable of the prodigal son. Jonathon reassured students that regardless of past mistakes, God is waiting to receive them with an overflowing abundance of grace, mercy, and love. Lewellyn pointed students to the truth that God values them with a love so real that he sent his only son to save them. He concluded with John 3:16, "*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.*"

Victor Hess' message centered around one simple, but powerful statement: *God is real*. Victor gave a personal testimony regarding what God had been teaching him in life lately. He read Psalm 33:6 which says, "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." He illustrated the awe-inspiring concept that the God, who created everything, cares intimately for each of us. He continued to talk about the value of

prayer, and the value of simply having a conversation with God. Victor's message resolved with the thought-provoking idea that an all powerful, all mighty, all knowing God desperately desires to have a close relationship with every one of us.

School Ministry Chair, Jonathan Polivka, reflected, "When thinking of the reasons for Spiritual Renewal Week, I think it's vital for personal growth to set aside a time for reflection and thought. As students, it's important to come together and share what we valued from all of the teachings. Friday was that day, and in the end we were able to recognize a pure connection as a school, as friends, and the family of God."

The week served two important purposes. It produced growth within students' relationships with each other, as well as their relationships with God, as they learned to turn to Him in acknowledgement of all things. It was a time of individual growth, as students expanded their knowledge and personal walk with God. It also was a time that affected the school as whole, bringing young people of all ages, backgrounds, and personalities under one common understanding of a God that they can look to in everything.



Upcoming Events:

Jan. 5: Classes resume

Jan. 28: Parent Night
Safety & Responsibility in the Digital Age

Feb. 4: Visitors Day

Feb. 14: Benefit Concert

May 2: Benefit Auction

Planting Seeds!

Seed Northwest is a project of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We offer matching grants to member congregations who need assistance with new projects for mission, outreach, and growth.

Our goals are to:

- Financially assist emerging and re-developing congregations.
- Encourage creative ideas for outreach & mission.
- Unite all members of the PNMC in support of exciting grassroots projects.

2014:

This year a grant was given to Anawim Christian Community, to make property improvements that would enable them to provide laundry & storage facilities for their community. Further updates will be provided as that project progresses. Applications for projects from other congregations are welcomed.

Visit seednw.weebly.com for application information.

If helping congregations develop projects for mission, outreach and growth and giving them funding to make these projects a reality appeals to you, please contact [Katherine Pitts](#). Additional committee members are needed.

MDS Washington Unit Seeks to Expand Resources

By Carl Westphal

Over the past several years the Mennonite Disaster Service, Washington Unit, has been discussing and praying about acquiring a trailer and tools. This idea started after an experience five years ago building a home and workshop for a man in California whose home had been destroyed by fire. The project was part of a new MDS Initiative, called Partner Home Projects, where individual units take on local projects. The California project was accomplished with the use of a tool trailer generously loaned by the Arizona Unit. The project's success led to a discussion over the next several years about the value of the **Washington Unit acquiring its own trailer** and the commitment to do so. The advantages include being able to provide service to Washington, and possibly residents of neighboring states whose homes have been damaged by fire, flood, or other natural disasters. It will also make service projects more available for younger members of our congregations and friends whose young families and careers make it difficult to commit for longer bi-national assignments. As of now, money has been raised within the Washington Unit to buy a first-rate trailer to house the equipment, and trailer has been delivered. The MDS Washington Unit is now seeking PNMC support to raise money for tools and equipment for the trailer. The group anticipates being asked to help with rebuilding homes destroyed by fire in eastern Washington last summer, so the sooner the trailer is equipped, the sooner the group can make a commitment to help rebuild.

The folks in Washington appreciate your prayerful consideration of this request. If you feel called to help, donations may be forward to Mennonite Disaster Service-Washington Unit, c/o Stan Wyse, Treasurer, 5603 104th Ave. N.E., Kirkland, WA. 98033. In addition, your participation working with the Washington Unit is welcome any time. Skills and experience are not necessary, as they can be acquired from other skilled MDS volunteers. *Thank you for your prayers in behalf of MDS work.*

PNMC Treasurer's Report: *By Brett Tieszen*

The table below highlights conference finances, **February 1 - October 31**—the end of PNMC's fiscal third quarter. As the year ends, across the board income has exceeded estimates and expenses have come in lower than expected. This hasn't been enough to completely cover our year-to-date expected deficit of more than \$28,000, but the current shortfall of \$1562 is decidedly more manageable in comparison. If you would like to help reduce the deficit further, year-end gifts are welcome. (offering check to your congregation's deacon's fund, building fund, or Mennonite Central Committee. Like other charitable organizations, PNMC is morally and legally obligated to comply with donor intent after receiving gifts with a specific designation. As gifts earmarked for causes beyond PNMC are not be available for conference uses, it makes sense to separate them out in financial reports to maximize *For tax-deduction purposes, checks with a 2014 date and received with a 2014 postmark are considered to be 2014 donations, even if delivered in January.*)

Speaking of gifts, at the bottom of the report is a new line: **Designated Contributions**. This line includes gifts received by PNMC with a specific earmark outside of the operating budget, the same as might happen if you designated part of a Sunday clarity.

	Actual	Budget	Difference	Percent
Church Contributions	\$ 96,610.19	\$ 93,849.00	\$ 2,761.19	102.94%
Other Income	\$ 50,139.86	\$ 40,705.59	\$ 9,434.27	6.12%
Total Income	\$146,750.05	\$134,554.59	\$ 12,195.46	109.06%
Total Expenses	\$148,312.47	\$163,125.95	\$(14,813.48)	90.92%
Net Income	\$ (1,562.42)	\$ (28,571.36)	\$ 27,008.94	5.47%

Designated Contributions \$ 17,232.87

Sabbatical Reflections

By Rachel Ringenberg-Miller



I felt at peace entering the Portland Airport, May 19, 2014.

At peace is not how most would describe feelings evoked by travel.

These days, people are anxious; do they have liquids in 3oz bottles? Shoes they can slip off easily? I was at peace, because I was at PDX traveling alone. Normally at the airport, my husband and I divide up the labor; one child each, one piece of luggage, one carry-on, and occasionally the carry-on of the child who no longer wants to wear his/her own. This time I am alone, one piece of luggage, one carry-on, walking casually through security, stopping for an Americano and ambling towards my gate.

Why this feeling? Sabbatical. Of course, going to the airport was not my sabbatical, I was there to catch a flight to the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, MN. I spent a week with 1,750 pastors listening to preachers like Walter Brueggemann,

Brian McClaren, Barbara Brown Taylor, and many others. *It was an inspiring week.*

This week at the Festival of Homiletics set a tone for my sabbatical. It helped me recharge, reset, and re-imagine my role as preacher. The sabbatical that Portland Mennonite Church granted me was for 3 ½ months. The bulk of my time was spent on the road. My family traveled from Portland, OR to Harrisonburg, VA; to Ohio and Michigan, then back to Portland. We traveled for two months. Four weeks were spent in Staunton, VA, which served as our home-base while I traveled to Eastern Mennonite Seminary every day for classes. I was a part of the Spiritual Summer Institute at E. M. S. There I immersed myself back into student life. I spent many of mornings half up the EMU hill at the Prayer Labyrinth. The mornings were quiet and cool. It was there that I could be in silence, prayer and solitude.

While in Virginia, I began training for the last part of my sabbatical, running the Portland Marathon. I trained for 18 weeks. During that time, I sprained my ankle, lost two nails, had several nasty blisters and went through two pairs of

running shoes. It was worth it. Running allows me to lose myself in my thoughts and gives me time to once again be in the quiet. On October 5, at 7:15am, I was once again feeling at peace as I, along with 6,400 other runners set out to finish 26.2 miles. It was not easy, but at 12:15pm, I crossed the finish line and completed my goal of running the Portland Marathon.

This sabbatical was a much needed respite after seven years of ministry of the Pastor of Community Life at Portland Mennonite Church. My role at PMC is helping people make connections; connections to God, connections to the PMC community and connections to the community outside the church building. This means I'm with people a lot. I love people, yet, I found that even an extrovert like myself, needs to have time away from people and be in the quiet with God. The sense of peace I felt in the airport has continued to stay with me since my return from sabbatical. I hope that this sense of peace will carry me through the next weeks, months and years until it's time once again to take a sabbatical to renew and re-energize my call as pastor.

2015 Conference Communications Council

We have heard from many of you with the names of those who will attend CCC on **January 10, 2015**, from 9-3 at Zion Mennonite Church on behalf of your congregation, but we still need to hear from some. Remember, each congregation gets to send 2 persons -- a pastor and a lay leader. Or two lay leaders. If you can't get a lay leader but have an extra pastor, that will work too.

To get you looking forward to our gathering, topics will include:

- 1) What's going on around MC USA regarding LGBT concerns? What are our sister conferences up to?
- 2) What did the survey of credentialed persons show? How does that impact us in PNMC?
- 3) How are congregations in PNMC

responding to LGBT concerns? Have you had conversations? Bible studies? Encounters with LGBT persons? Is there anything we want to say as a conference to each other or to the wider church?

4) What other issues is the PNMC Board working with? We will be breaking into smaller groups to get your input as we look at: our relationship with Western Mennonite School, how we manage PNMC resources, whether the resolutions process and/or Passion-based ministries can help us connect with each other in shared ministry, and

how and where PNMC can be involved with church planting or other new outreach ministries in the Northwest.

It looks to be a full day of sharing, conversation, and discernment.

If you haven't let us know who will be attending from your congregation send an email to office@pnmc.org as soon as possible.

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

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

Spring Valley Mennonite Church Celebrates 90 Years!



Photo by David Hiebert, Scottdale, PA

By Agnes Goertzen

Over 100 people gathered at Spring Valley Mennonite Church to celebrate its 90th Anniversary, Sunday, October 12, with a special sermon by Katherine Jameson Pitts. A video was shown depicting activities and people in the church from 1924 to 1999. There was also sharing and music, followed by a festive dinner. It was a special homecoming for many from as far away as California and Pennsylvania.

Current pastor, Gary Jewell, along with former pastor (1961-1964), Floyd Quenzer of Fresno, CA, and former pastor (1975-1982), George Leppert from Filer, ID, took part in the morning worship. Vera Hiebert, Emmett, ID, attended and shared her musical talents. There was also a display with historical pictures and memorabilia from the past 90 years.

In 1922 Mennonite families from Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska accepted the invitation of the Northern Pacific Railroad to settle in this area. The railroad offered a free trip to inspect property and promised to build a church if twelve or

more families would relocate. They kept their promise. The church was formally organized with sixteen charter members and the following Sunday, nine more were added by baptism. The original building was replaced with the present structure in 1948. A Sunday School addition was added in the 1960's, and the foyer enlarged and a handicap lift installed in the 1990's. After 79 years of heating with wood, an electric furnaces replaced the wood furnace in 2003.

Some of the services that have been important to the church have been the Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Easter Sunrise service at sunrise usually on our Hiebert Sunrise Hill, followed by breakfast; an annual picnic in the church park; the Christmas Eve program, which at one time included the lighting of real candles on the tree as alert people stood by with pails of water; Christmas Eve caroling by the youth

group and an orange in the Christmas candy sacks when oranges were a special treat, a tradition that continues to this day.

The Mennonite Church believes that Jesus Christ can and does save persons from sin and guilt, that He gives purpose to earthly life and promise of eternal life. We try to live in obedience to our understanding of the Word of God, the Bible, and believe that God's Spirit helps the community of believers understand that Word. Mennonites emphasize believers' baptism upon confession of faith, honest discipleship, and the non-violent life, overcoming evil with good. The congregation meets regularly for worship at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays, followed by Sunday School for all ages.

Kathy Bilderback was installed as Pastor/Administrator at Evergreen Heights, Caldwell, ID, on Dec. 14, 2014.

Gordon Scoville's term as interim pastor will conclude at Seattle Mennonite, Jan. 4, 2015.

John David Thacker will complete his pastorate at Prince of Peace, Anchorage, AK, May 17, 2015.

Jennifer L. Gingerich, chaplain at Providence Medical Center, Portland, OR., will be licensed toward ordination January 4, 2015, at Salem Mennonite Church.

Western Mennonite Church is seeking a .25FTE Youth Leader. Contact [Kay Nussbaum](#) for job description and application.

PNMC Ministerial Updates

PNMC Board of Directors

Jennifer Delanty
Moderator, 2016

Samuel Moran
Mod-Elect, 2016

Wanda Dorsing
Secretary, 2015

Brett Tieszen
Treasurer, 2017

Nelly Ascencio
CIHAN, 2016

Dave Hockman-Wert
At-Large, 2015

Sarah Hooley
At-Large, 2016

Todd Lehman
At-Large, 2018

Joseph Penner
At-Large, 2016

Jack Swaim
At-Large, 2016



Find us on
Facebook - click the
above icon.

PNMC Staff

Katherine J. Pitts
Exec. Conf Minister
kjpitts@pnmc.org
P: 503-349-5420

Barbara Buxman
Admin Assistant
office@pnmc.org
P: 888/492-4216

Brenda Kauffman,
Communications, Editor
brenda@pnmc.org
W/H: 503/921-5866

PNMC District Pastors

Wendell Amstutz: Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita, Ministerios Restauración, Iglesia Menonita Pentecostés, Warden Mennonite

Victor Vargas: Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación

Dave Stutzman: Corvallis Mennonite, Lebanon Mennonite, Logsden Neighborhood Church, First Mennonite of McMinnville

Gary Jewell: Evergreen Mennonite, Hyde Park Mennonite, Menno Mennonite, Prince of Peace Mennonite, Seattle Mennonite

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

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

Bob Buxman: Salem Mennonite, Zion Mennonite

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

Renee Johns: Emmaus Christian Fellowship, Evergreen Heights Mennonite, Filer Mennonite

Rose Marie Zook Barber: Anawim Christian Community, International Bethel City Church

Tim Gascho: First Mennonite of Aberdeen

Unassigned: Western Mennonite Church, Menno Meeting (SLC)

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*

Jan. 10, *Communications Council*, Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR

Jan. 23, *Daryl Byler*, Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR

Jan. 24, *Daryl Byler*, Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR

Jan. 24, *Mental Health Workshop*, Lebanon Mennonite Church, Lebanon, OR

Jan. 25, *Daryl Byler*, Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA

Feb. 4, *Visitors Day*, Western Mennonite School, Salem, OR

Feb. 14, *Benefit Concert*, Western Mennonite School, Salem, OR

April 10-12, *Women's Retreat*, Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR

April 17 -18, *Idaho Relief Sale*, NW Nazarene University, Nampa, ID

May 2, *WMS Benefit Auction*, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR

June 19-20, *PNMC Annual Meeting*, Lebanon, OR

June 30-July 5, *MC USA Annual Meeting*, St. Louise, MO

July 21-26, *MWC 2015*, Harrisburg, PA

* 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.



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

PNMC Conference Office

PO Box 301036, Portland, OR, 97294

T: 888.492.4216

Frequently updated, bookmark this page:

<http://www.pnmc.org/>