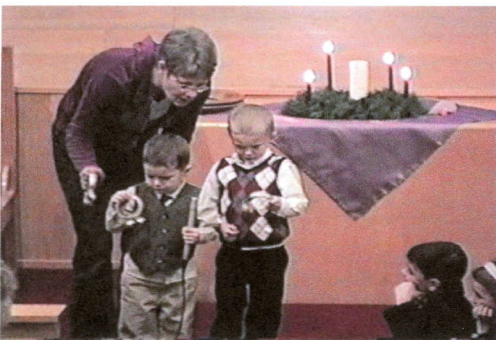


Menno Gives Gifts Of Song And Talent

Menno's Christmas Eve Service on December 24, 2009, started with the usual reading of the "Christmas Story" by Pastor Terry. The kids read stories about Christmas and sang a few songs. The kids included: Zachary Claassen, Brandon Swinger, Morgan Shields, Dusty Kulm, Spencer Gering, and Ellie Gering. Bill Dyck read about the "Reason for the Season". Diane Gering organized the "Christmas at the Manger" with different people talking about what impressions you would have if you were at the manger as; an Angel, Mary, Joseph, the donkey, the innkeeper, the hay/straw, sheep, the swaddling clothes, the manger, part of the crowd, and the star. Those that gave of their talents and impressions were: Butch Gering, Tina Shields, Michael Claassen, Spencer Gering, Terry Rediger, Elizabeth Claassen, Ellie Gering, Gary Jantz, Linda Reimer, Howard Reimer, Regan Bonato, and Sharon Meyer. Spencer Gering gave his impression of being a donkey at the manger,



Brandon, Dusty, Morgan, Spencer, Ellie, & Zach in front



Brandon, Zach, & Elizabeth ringing bells

as Ellie Gering gave her impressions of being a sheep. Tina Shields gave her impressions of Mary, being pregnant herself, and Elizabeth Claassen dramatically and humorously told the difference between hay and straw and its role in the manger scene. Morgan Shields, Ellie and Spencer Gering sang a song of "The Friendly Beasts". Butch Gering sang two songs, "Away In A Manger" and "O Holy Night". After lighting the individual candles in the darkened sanctuary, and singing "Silent Night", the traditional Christmas sacks were handed out.



Morgan, Spencer, & Ellie singing a song

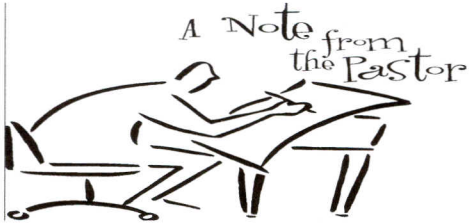


Tina Shields as "Mary"



Elizabeth Claassen as "Straw"

A Note from the Pastor



As I write this it is the last day of the year 2009. I feel some nostalgia as I reflect on this past year, its high points and low points, what was and what could have been, opportunities embraced and opportunities missed. Then as I look out the window I see new snow falling. It reminds me of the new year coming with its hopes and opportunities and high points. How will I say goodbye to the old year and welcome in the new year?

Usually I try to watch the TV broadcast from Times Square in New York City along with millions of others. As midnight approaches I join with millions of others in the count down to midnight. When the Times Square crystal ball descends announcing the New Year, I say Happy New Year to anyone who happens to be around me. If I have a horn handy, I blow on it. But isn't this the world's way of recognizing the New Year?

I did a little research and found the ancient Israelites also had a New Year's celebration. Its New Year's Day happened in the spring with the first cutting of the new crop. They prepared for the New Year by getting rid of all the food leftover from the year, either by eating it or by burning it. No food from the old year was to be around when the New Year began. Then on New Years morning the rams horn or shofur would be blown. At its sound, the king would ascend and sit on his throne. The people would go and ceremonially cut the first sheaf of the new crop, and the New Year would be formally inaugurated.

I wondered if ancient Israel's New Years traditions have any relevance for my own New Years observance. I don't like the idea of getting rid of all the food in my house before the New Year. I can't eat it all by midnight, and I didn't feel right about throwing it out. But I begin to think about all the old stuff in my heart and mind from 2009 that might need to be gotten rid of, like leftover negative attitudes. I don't want them to con-

taminate the new year. Confession of sin is like getting rid of all the old toxic spiritual food leftover from the year and starting the New Year with fresh spiritual food. Then on New Years morning I will blow a horn if I can find one. But more importantly I will ask God to ascend the throne of my heart again and reside there. If that would happen, then the new year would be off to a wonderful start.

So my prayer for New Years Day: "Oh God, purge my inner house, my heart and mind of the old stuff that I want to hang on to but is spiritually toxic. Clean my inner being. Then God, ascend to the throne of my heart on this first day of 2010 and stay there all year through". Amen!



Pastor Terry

*Menna's Mission statement
Menno Mennonite Church, a Christian
Anabaptist Community, equips believers
through Worship and Study, and ex-
presses God's love to others through Stew-
ardship and Service.*

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor (tries for at least four times per year or more). Any address corrections, additions, or deletions can be sent to: **Menno Mennonite Church – 1378 N. Damon Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169**, phone 509-659-0926. Web site: <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>. If you wish to help with mailing costs of the *Beacon*, donations can be sent to the above address. Terry Rediger, pastor, email: menno@centurytel.net, Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Bill Dyck, editor. You can contact Bill at: 509-677-3616 or email at: blsdyck@ritzcom.net or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the *Beacon*, **the next Beacon news is due May 16, 2010**. Thanks to Gene Claassen for the photos.

MCC In Haiti

MCC is responding to the earthquake that struck Haiti January 12, 2010, the largest in more than 200 years. MCC's response will be at least \$1 million (U.S.) and will provide immediate shelter, food and emergency supplies and trauma healing and other long-term recovery needs. You can help through prayer for the people of Haiti and by donating to MCC's Haiti Earthquake appeal. Give online at: <http://mcc.org/haitiearthquake>, by check to West Coast MCC (1010 G Street, Reedley, CA 93654), or by phone toll free: 1-888-563-4676.

Still Need to Know

There is still thought to have the *Menno Beacon* only digitally (web or email). If you do not have a computer or access to the internet, could you send a note to the church or to me directly, indicating you wish to have a printed copy sent? Thanks to those few that have responded already. Since the last *Beacon* the response has been mixed.

Menno Church's and mine address is listed to the right. This will help in the decision process. You can access the colored Menno Beacon on Menno's website:

<http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>

Bill Dyck, *Menno Beacon* editor

Warden Mennonite Church

720 S. Pine, Warden, WA 98857 (509)349-2444

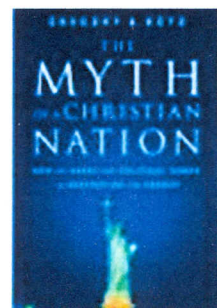
Web site: www.wardenmennonite.org



Brown hills and drab, dormant trees mark our entrance into the season of Lent and Easter. Warden Mennonite will be sharing in community Lent services in which we meditate on Jesus' prayers on the way to the cross. We will meet for simple soup and bread meals and worship with our brothers and sisters in the Community and Assembly of God churches.

January was designated the "Month of the Church," and Pastor Brad preached on God's gifts and activities in our congregation. He encouraged us to see and celebrate the good things that God has been doing among us. The Month of the Church ended with a service of re-covenanting and foot-washing. Our annual meeting was also held on that day, with the election of new officers and positions in the church. On February 7, we will hold a Valentine's Day dinner. The dinner takes the place of our annual Christian dinner, which had to be cancelled because of icy weather.

At the start of the year, Pastor Brad traveled to Harrisonburg, VA to hear Greg Boyd, author of *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, speak at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Dr. Boyd called on the Mennonite church to continue living out our testimony to Jesus' nonviolent way of the cross. He challenged us to bear the Kingdom to the "gates of hell," just as Jesus instructed his disciples (Matt. 16:18), taking the Gospel message to the challenging and risky margins.

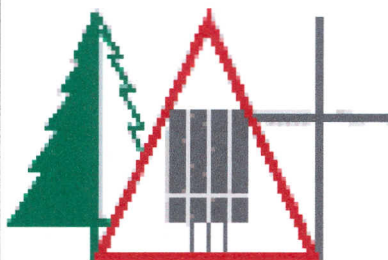


Pastor Brad

Editor's Note: For more information on Greg Boyd, see his website at: www.gregboyd.org

Warden's Calender of Events

February 17		Ash Wednesday @ Community Church
February 21	6:00 pm	Chuck Buck shares testimony @ Menno Church
March 7		Pie Social
March 10	6:00 pm	Meal ; 7:00 pm Service @ Mennonite Church
April 2		Good Friday
April 4	8:00 am	Community service @ Park
	9:00 am	Breakfast
	10:00 am	Worship service; no Sunday School



We still have some snow up here at Camrec and a usable tubing run. It just would be nicer to have a bit more snow. Maybe it will snow this week. We do have a few applicants for the Camp Program Director position and WMF chairman Morlin Elias hopes to have interviews in March so

the position can be filled before the April camp board meetings and program planning session.

Maurice & Joyce Briggs

The Camp Camrec board is seeking a new Secretary. Wilma Eby, our current secretary, has diligently served Camp Camrec and Washington Mennonite Fellowship (WMF) and is ready for someone else to have this opportunity. The Secretary keeps minutes of board and annual meetings and performs other related tasks. Please contact your Camrec representative if you have a nomination or would like to volunteer for this role. Please consider this need prayerfully.

March 18-21	Quilting Retreat
April 9 11	Women's Retreat
April 23-25	Camrec Annual Meeting
May 7-9	Menno Retreat

Another MDS Adventure

Ramona, CA, was the chosen location for the fifth annual MDS service week. Ramona is located north west of San Diego at the foot of the Cuyamaca Mountains. In October of 2007, 195,000 acres were burned in San Diego County and fire destroyed 640 homes and damaged another 250. We stayed at an unused school in



Ramona that MDS has temporarily fixed for MDSers. Our spirits were not dampened as we worked through five days of intermittent rain, hail, and sleet on three new home sites.

Those attending from Washington were Linda Reimer, Colleen Kagele, Jeanette Filan, Kim Froedel, Donna Closson-Lehn, Darryll and Linda Graber, Kevin Froese, Todd Haworth,

Chris Duff, Reed Meyer, Stan Meyer, Gary Jantz, Earl Franz, Ryan Kuch, Doug Claassen, and Gene Claassen. It was another great week of service, fun, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

By Gene Claassen



Once again, I was fortunate enough to be a part of another MDS trip. We had a wonderful time (not hard to believe when you have great company, a worth while project and RAIN!) Another adventure. We went to sunny San Diego. Did I mention that sunny San Diego was actually rainy San Diego? They usually get ten inches of rain a year. I'm pretty sure we got that much in two days. Our band of merry builders included the core Menno group and Graber's from Seattle along with some new guys from the west side and two guys from Iowa and Ontario, Canada. Eh? My group worked on a house for an older couple. We were really lucky to have a carpenter in our group.



Chris showed us (with great patience) how to side a house with "Hardyboard". I became an expert at measuring and Linda Reimer has become an expert at the cement scissor saw. There was so much rain we had to take

Thursday off. We did manage to finish the drywall on Friday so they could inspect the drywall screws on Monday.

For me, the sore muscles and the tiredness is all worth it. You never know what the circumstances will be when you get there, but it really doesn't matter. It is always an adventure and always worth it. I can hardly wait until Dennis can join me.

By Colleen Kagele

Both of my friends that I brought were very impressed with the MDS group. We all enjoyed the food and the fellowship. The men were so willing to help us learn new skills that we hope to use again at the next service project!!

By Jeanette (Franz) Filan



News & Notes:

Before Christmas, a group of Menno's got together at the home of Jeff and Deanna Long to go caroling. As they went from door to door in the neighborhood, singing favorite old carols like, *Joy to the World*, they elicited positive responses and even tears from many residents. "We haven't heard carolers in years;" "Oh, how beautiful;" or even "Would you like some real Scottish shortbread?" were some of the comments. The shortbread was delicious, as were snacks at Long's after the evening was over.

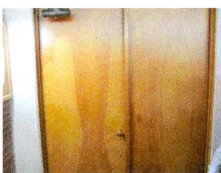
This year I'm interning in youth ministry with a church in Sammamish. I'm leading 6th - 8th graders as well as helping put together programs for Wednesday night youth group, Sunday mornings, and special events. I've been so amazed to see how God has shown up helping me disciple all these Jr Highers and helping them grow in Christ.

Amber Slate

Recent maintenance at Menno Church has been the repairing of the main doors to the church. February 7, was the first look at the new RH door with the LH door out being refinished by Mark Zimmer of Moses Lake. A new steel outside door was recently installed into the fellowship wing.



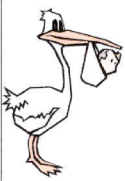
Outside



Inside

After the MDS work week, Earl Franz made a fast weekend side trip to Tucson, AZ, to be the "stand in" grandparent for Margie Schowalter, at her granddaughter Corin's wedding. Corin is finishing her Ph D at Ariz St U, in "Environmental Science."

CONGRATULATIONS to Michael Gering and Tina Shields on the birth of their son, Logan



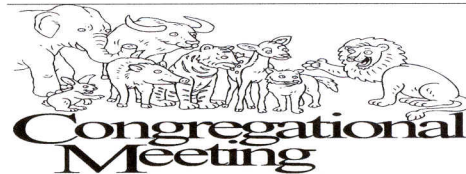
Neal Gering, on February 1, 2010. He weighed 8 lbs, 11 oz, and was 21 inches long.

Chuck Buck of Buck Knives will be giving his faith journey story, February 21, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at Menno Church.

Four generations of Bucks have honed their skills in both business and knife-making at Buck Knives. The company is a leading manufacturer of pocket knives, hunting knives, fishing knives, and other cutlery for hunters, sportsmen, the US military, and others. Chairman Chuck T. Buck and son C. J. (president and CEO) head up the company that began in 1902 in a lean-to adjacent to a San Diego garage. In 2005, the knife maker moved to Idaho where it operates a four-and-a-half acre factory in which hundreds of styles of Buck knives are made. Buck Knives is taking steps to regain the Made in the USA stamp for all of its products, after outsourcing some of its production to Asia.



Minnie Franz would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and visits during her recovery from her Thanksgiving night fall. Minnie had about three months of physical and occupational therapy at Avalon Care Center in north Spokane. The first week in February, she moved back to Windriver House.



Some of the highlights of Menno Church's annual business meeting January 30, 2010, were: Randy Franz was elected as Deacon (three year term), Barb Franz was elected as Sunday School Board member (two year term) as was Cleon Claassen elected as secretary to the Sunday School Board (two year term). Others elected to different positions: Dorene Claassen – Special Concerns, Colleen Kagele – C.E. Committee, Randy Franz and Julie Cain – Maintenance Committee, and Stan Meyer – Usher. A \$128,910.00 budget was passed for 2010. Menno Church will be looking for a new pastor as Pastor Terry Rediger will be leaving in June. Keep Menno Church in your prayers as new pastor is searched for, and for the person who may be coming to Menno.

Melissa Claassen was selected as the "Teacher of the Month" in the Moses Lake School system. Melissa teaches 6th grade history at Chief Moses Middle School. The student nominating Melissa said "**she rocks**". This is the second time Melissa has been selected as "Teacher of the Month". Way to go Melissa!



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Ritzville Community Lenten Soup Suppers

March 3	6:00 p.m.	Baptist Church
March 10	6:00 p.m.	Nazarene Church
March 17	6:00 p.m.	Zion Philadelphia UCC Church
March 24	6:00 p.m.	Four Square Church
April 2	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Services at Menno Mennonite Church

April 4



Easter Sunday

Calender of Events

February	21		First Sunday in Lent
	21	6:00 p.m.	Chuck Buck presentation
	23		District Pastor meet—Couer d'Alene
	24	9 - 1 p.m.	Volunteers staff Ritzville Food Bank
		6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
	25	2:30 p.m.	Life Care worship
	28		Second Sunday in Lent
		3:30 p.m.	Ritzville Jail Bible Study
March	7		Third Sunday in Lent
	11	9 - 2 p.m.	Menno Women in Mission
	14		Fourth Sunday in Lent
	18-21		Quilting Retreat at Camp Camrec
	21		Fifth Sunday in Lent
	28		Palm Sunday
April	1	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service at Menno Church