

## Sister Care at Menno

Thirty-eight women registered for the Washington/Montana Sister Care Seminar held at Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA, on October 22-23. They arrived from Portland, Missoula, Kalispell, Seattle area, Newport and in-between! Sister Care equips women who desire to learn more about how to connect in meaningful, supportive relationship and how to care for hurting friends within the congregation.

Beautiful harmony filled the Fellowship Wing as Katherine Smith Derksen and Agnes Goertzen led worshipful singing before each session with piano accompaniment and a capella. Rhoda Keener, Executive Director—Mennonite Women USA, and Carolyn Heggen, MWUSA West Coast Representative, led the seminar.

As we considered “Claiming Our Identity as God’s Beloved Daughter”, we listened to a scripture drama, “The Woman At The Well”, given by Marlene Unruh. “What we believe about our personal worth and identity makes a difference in how we care for others” (from the manual *SISTER CARE: EQUIPPING WOMEN FOR CARING MINISTRY*). As we explored “Caring for Self and Others”, the scripture drama, “Friends of The Paralytic” was presented by Wanda Dorsing. “Compassionate Listening” brought informative discussions and encouraging interaction around tables as women shared intimately about loss and grief in their lives. The last session, “Transforming Loss and Grief”, was illustrated by the stories from two women, who shared how loss and grief are transforming into healing for them. They pointed to ways sisters can be a part of each others’ lives during tender life situations.



not have the final word!...But in the meantime, we need each other to keep from having our spirits crushed and becoming numb by our losses.” Anyone is welcome to check out the manual for inspiration or involvement.

Prayer Blankets, created by Margaret Kauffman and endorsed by each participant in a written a blessing,



Carolyn Heggen & Rhoda Keener

Prayer Shawls, knitted by women from Mountain View Mennonite Church, were draped around the shoulders of one woman from each table chosen by that table group. Touching moments of prayer with that sister bonded women in heart-felt unity with our Compassionate God.

Each church represented was given a complimentary manual to be used as a resource. Quoting from the manual: “Through our teaching, preaching, singing, and life together, the community of faith remind us of the central message of Jesus: *suffering and death do*



Grace to you, reader, and peace in the name of Jesus the son of God.

My past three months of ministry at Menno Mennonite Church have been a journey of much learning. As I form new relationships and learn the stories of Menno and the many wonderful people whose lives intersect here, I also negotiate the new challenges of time management, church administration, and congregational leadership.

At times I sit down in bewilderment and ask myself, "What did you learn that whole time you were in seminary, anyway?"

At times I wish I could instantly download new knowledge into my brain like a computer software program. At times I ask God, "What were you thinking, sending me – someone who's never been a pastor before – to a church that has never had a pastor who was never a pastor before?"

But the joys have far outstripped the trials. Where I have failed, there has been grace in abundance. Where there have been frustrations, they have been lessons in patience. Where I have been attentive, I have seen the face of Jesus our savior among you.

In a similar way, my family and I continue to witness the spectacular presence of God in our natural surroundings. We have seen God's beauty in the millions of stars that appear on cloudless nights. We have seen God's majesty in the snow-

capped peaks of Mt. Rainier on the distant horizon. We have seen God's

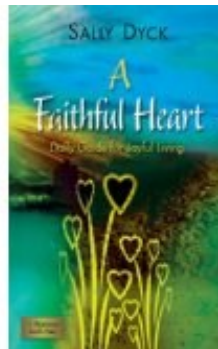


providence in the bushels of locally grown produce that have appeared on our doorstep, accompanied by loving hands and smiling faces. We have witnessed God's power in the mighty rushing wind that wakes us in the night. And in the absolute peace of the silence that follows, we have heard a still, small voice.

For these reasons, and as I continue to learn your stories, I deeply anticipate the rest of our journey together. I look forward to learning together what it is to be Menno Mennonite Church – and a pastor – in Adams County, Washington, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Pastor Matthew

**Sally Dyck** has written not one but two books. The first one, ***A Faithful Heart: Daily Guide for Joyful Living*** was released in September 2010. As the description on Amazon says "A *Faithful Heart* is an eight-week journey into these words. Follow along and find yourself strengthening your heart and experiencing God in a powerful way. In the pages of this book, Sally Dyck combines Scripture, engaging stories, and the faith of Mary to encourage women to grow and share their heart.



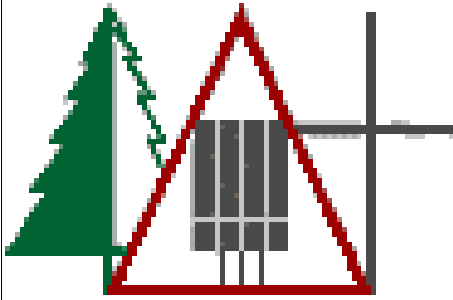
Experience *A Faithful Heart* on your own or as part of a community of women who want to open themselves up to the richness of God's daily presence.

It's in paperback from Abingdon Press, ISBN-10: 1426709986. Cost is \$9.60 new on Amazon.

Sally's second book, to be release in December 2010, is titled ***A Hopeful Earth: Faith, Science, and the Message of Jesus***, which she co-authored with her niece Sarah Ehrman.

(Continued on page 7)

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. Matthew Yoder pastor, email: [menno@centurytel.net](mailto:menno@centurytel.net), Sharon Meyer, publisher, and Bill Dyck, editor. You can contact Bill at: 509-677-3616 or email at: **[billdyck70@yahoo.com](mailto:billdyck70@yahoo.com)** (new email address) or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the *Beacon*, **the next Beacon news is due February 13, 2011** Thanks to Sharon Meyer, Jo Miller, Melissa Claassen, Sharla Dyck, Gene Claassen, and Joyce Briggs for the pictures in this issue.



website: <http://camrec.org>

**H**elpers from Menno and Warden came earlier in the week and took off the old shakes of cabin # 8, which got new metal roof over the week-end.

At the meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the Natural Resources report and actions that Jim Eby wanted to take. Since he wasn't there it was decided to continue that



New metal roof on cabin #8

at the April meeting. There was discussion on the Forest Stewardship Plan and the retaining of Richard Shellhaas as consulting forester. There was also discussion on the adoption of re-stated Articles of Incorporation and the By-laws but no action was taken at this time.

Spring Annual Meeting will be held April 22-24, 2011 and hosted by Spring Valley church.



Zach Claassen,  
youngest & hardest  
worker

Men's Retreat will be December 3-5, 2010. Spend some quality time with our brothers from the Washington Mennonite Fellowship. Activities include: discussions, pinochle with wily wheat farmers, play in the snow, and worship together.

December 28-30 will be the Sr. High Snow Camp.

Check Camrec's website for latest information or email [camrec@nwi.net](mailto:camrec@nwi.net) or phone 509-548-7245.



Michael & Staci Claassen  
family, carving pumpkins

*(Continued from page 1)*

were presented to Rhoda and Carolyn as a token of appreciation for their bringing this inspiration to us. A very touching blessing closed our seminar with the opportunity of washing in a bowl of water symbolic of our tears which are not forgotten by our compassionate God, and then receiving the healing mark of the cross with symbolic Living Water that Jesus provides.

The WA/MT Seminar is thankful for: PNMC Prayer Partners who committed to praying for this time



throughout the summer months; the capable and wonderful leadership of Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen; the two young women available for Spanish translation should the need have arisen; the adequate, limited in-home lodging provided by Menno and Warden Mennonite Women; the wonderful catering of Diane Gering who provided meals adapted to dietary restrictions of our sisters; and for the provision of a Continental Breakfast by Menno Women in Mission.

By Sharon Meyer

For more information on Sister Care:

[www.mennonitewomenusa.org](http://www.mennonitewomenusa.org)

# 33rd Mennonite Country Auction

With temperatures in the 80s, the homemade ice cream and fresh-pressed apple cider booths did brisk business at the Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale, held on Oct. 2, at Menno Mennonite Church between Moses Lake and Ritzville.

Good weather, food and big crowds meant impressive returns for this annual fundraising event, now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year.

More than \$100,000 was raised to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a relief and development agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Churches.

Auction items included everything from a loaf of bread to quilts worth thousands of dollars. The "Barn Raising Log Cabin" quilt from Pennsylvania was the highest-selling item at \$3500. For those who already had too much stuff in their homes, "Absolutely Nothing" sold numerous times at prices ranging from \$100 to \$500.

Perhaps the most interesting auction item was the MCC Traveling Quilt. Made of African materials, the Traveling Quilt is sold, donated back to the auction and then re-sold at Mennonite Central Committee auctions around the country.

Funds from these sales support the work of MCC in southern Sudan, which is slowly recovering from a 22 year-long civil war. At Mennonite Country Auction the quilt was first "sold" for \$450 and resold 13 times for a total of \$2800.

Each year after Mennonite Country Auction, a Sunday worship service is held to give thanks. The speaker at this year's service, held at Warden Mennonite Church, was Ken Sensenig from MCC headquarters in Pennsylvania.

Sensenig spoke about the "Coming Home" project in Sudan that works with Sudanese war refugees returning home to rebuild their communities and plant seeds of peace.

By David Morrow



Auction crowd in the shade



MCC Traveling Quilt



Jim Stucky auctioneering at Kids Auction



Many eating & visiting at the tables

# Licensing & Harvest Fest at Menno Church

**L**icensing and Installation for Matthew Yoder on September 6, 2010, brought a special service to Menno Church. The Rev Eldon King, Matthew's grandfather and a minister of 50 years in a variety of settings including Ohio and Illinois, delivered the morning message, with some of it directed toward Matthew in what it takes to be a pastor. Jeryl Hollinger, Menno's District Pastor (PNMC), and Moderator Elect for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC), welcomed Pastor Matthew to the ministry to Menno Church. A surprise to Matthew, was that his dad, Steve Yoder, was able to come for the weekend and share in this special event for Matthew.



l-r: Jeryl Hollinger, Steve Yoder, Matthew, Eldon King

**H**arvest Fest at Menno Mennonite Church was held November 7, 2010. Pastor Jeryl Hollinger of Mountain View Mennonite Church in Kalispell, MT, Menno's District Pastor, and Moderator Elect for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) was the guest speaker. The Music Team sang and led several songs throughout the service. A fellowship meal followed the service.

**Editor's editorial:** I decided after Harvest Fest this year that I am getting old! While there were a few guests, it wasn't like of old days of "Homecoming" where



Jeryl Hollinger giving the message

members and friends of Menno Church would come for the day from far and near. While the Music Team sang and was great, it too wasn't like having the choir loft filled with singers and singing several numbers to a full congregation, with both the piano and organ accompanying. Time's change. Generations change. I need to change! But it would be fun to see a "good old fashioned Homecoming" at Menno Church someday!



Music Team l-r: Cleon Claassen, Chris Gering, Olivia Long, Deana Long, with Jeff Long at the piano.

# Menno Remembers...

**Marie Julianna Franz Ewert** was

born on August 1, 1923 on her family's farm near Lind, Washington. The third of nine children born to Julius Albert and Agatha Dyck Franz, Marie was the oldest of seven daughters.

She attended Pleasant Valley School and graduated in 1941 from Lind High School. With her immediate and extended family, she attended the Menno Mennonite Church near Ritzville, WA, where she was baptized in 1937.

Marie attended Bethel College in North Newton, KS for two years, then transferred to Whitworth College in Spokane, WA from where she graduated in 1945 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. Having graduated from a Washington State school, Marie taught Home Economics in the Odessa, WA Public School system from 1945-1947.

On August 31, 1947, she married Elmer Henry Ewert from Marion, SD, at the Menno Mennonite Church. She moved to Elmer's farm near Marion, where they lived and farmed for 50 years. There they milked a dairy herd, raised cows, pigs, chickens, and occasionally geese and ducks. In addition to raising corn, oats and soy beans, Elmer occasionally grew a field of wheat as a tribute to the wheat farm in Washington where Marie was raised and where they met.

After becoming a member of the Bethel Mennonite Church near Marion, SD, Marie served many years as a children's Sunday School teacher and superintendent and participated in vocal music groups, adult Christian Endeavor programs and Women's Mission Society, where she also held leadership positions.

She taught Home Economics briefly at Freeman Junior College and Academy in Freeman, SD, and later served on the Freeman Junior College Board of Directors. She was a long-time member of and held leadership roles in the Freeman Junior College Auxiliary. Consistent with their life-long support of the Mennonite Central Committee, she and Elmer were instrumental in establishing and supporting the MCC thrift and fair-trade retail store Freeman, the Et Cetera Shop.

Marie and Elmer raised two daughters, Brenda Kae, who lives in Bellevue, WA, with her daughter, Hilary Marie Ewert Garman and Sheryl Marie, who lives in Sioux Falls, SD. Sons of a college friend and a sister also joined the family during many summer months to experience farm life and work.

Friends frequently enjoyed Marie's cooking and her and Elmer's hospitality during Sunday dinners. Relatives celebrated numerous holidays, birthdays or stops during vacation trips with meals of food raised in Marie's garden and on their farm.

Following the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease at the age of 74, and Elmer's death, Marie moved to Bellevue, WA, where she was lovingly cared for by Maria and Liviu Fratila in their adult family home until her peaceful death there, also under hospice care, at the age of 87, on October 18, 2010.

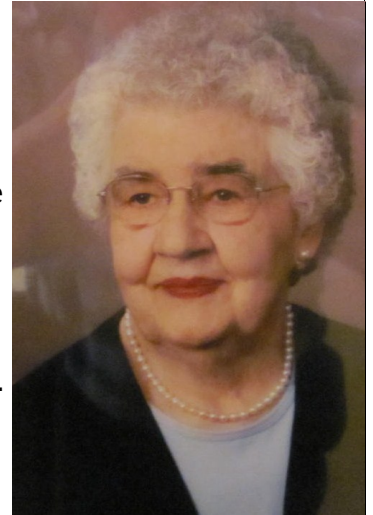
Preceding her in death were her husband, Elmer, sisters Marlene and Judy, parents Julius and Agatha, and brothers Leonard and Henry.

Surviving her are her daughters and granddaughter, sisters Viola Boese in Spokane, WA, Clara Reimer in North Newton, KS, Lucille Harms in Bellevue, WA, Lois Bartel in North Newton, KS, and their husbands, children and grandchildren. Also surviving her is a sister-in-law, Dorothy Franz near Lind, WA, and her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Menno Mennonite Church near Ritzville, WA, on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

Following her burial at the Rose Hill Cemetery near Marion, SD, another memorial service was held at the Salem Zion Mennonite Church near Freeman, SD, on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Charitable donations in Marie's honor may be made to Mennonite Central Committee, [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org).



## News & Notes:

Minnie Franz celebrated her 95th birthday with her family. The celebration began Thursday with Jay, Del and Carma joining her at JC and Bertie's. Then on Friday, her actual birthday (Nov 12), family joined her for dinner at River-view Terrace. Del flew from New Jersey to spend a few days and to celebrate with her Spokane family.

Menno is preparing for an **MDS trip** to Louisiana, January 16-22, 2011. They have room for more volunteers. If you are interested, talk to Gene Claassen 750-7918.

Jerry Kagele, member of Menno Mennonite Church, passed away in Spokane from cancer November 4, 2010. He was born August 11, 1945. There was no information available at the time of this publishing.

Herbert and Terry Janzen would like to announce the arrival of their first great-great grandchild. Madison Connell. The parents are Kayli and Chris Connell. Kayli is the daughter of Kimberly Janzen Bailey, Ron's daughter and our first granchild. Madison weighed under five pounds and will be going back to Arizona where Kayli and Chris live on a Marine base, in the next couple of days

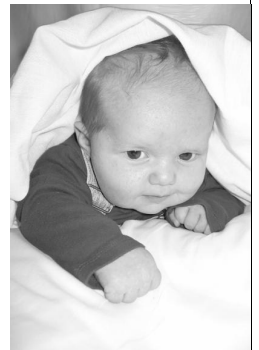


**CONGRATULATIONS** to Doug & Melissa Claassen on the birth of their son, Benjamin David, on Sept. 15, 2010 at 6:06 AM. He weighed 9 lbs, 5 oz., measured 20½ inches long, and joins big brother, Andrew!

Grant County pertussis (whooping cough) scare with multiple reported cases -- therefore, hospital maternity wing was completely closed down to visitors (including grandparents and siblings). Pertussis is a serious life-threatening concern for newborns.

Pediatrician recommended Benjamin not be around crowds until he received his pertussis vaccine at two months. We stayed home from church, and avoided crowds as much as possible.

Proud Grandparents are Jim & Judy Schrag of Newton, KS, and Gene & Dorene Claassen of Marlin, WA.



Jesse Stephen Dorsing was born October 4, 2010. He weighed 10 lbs 10 ozs and was 21" long. His parents are Jeromy and Beth Dorsing of Coon Rapids, MN. Jesse joins his older brother Nathen. Grandparents are Craig and Cheryl Dorsing of Moses Lake.

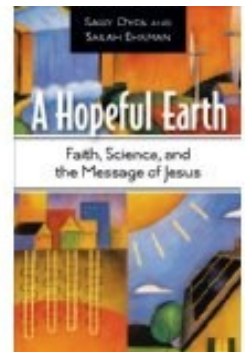
**Midweek at Menno** began November 3, with a paid meal at 6:00 p.m., with adult discussion and children activities from 6:30 – 7:30. The Women's Bible Study meets 6:30 – 8:00. This will be happening through February. It's a time to have some fellowship and recharge your faith with other believers. Everyone is welcome to attend.

(Continued from page 2)

Its description says "A Hopeful Earth", a unique study, draws together the Christian faith of Bishop Sally Dyck and the scientific world of her niece, Sarah Ehrman, to address this crisis. As these two dialogue, readers will find that these sometimes differing worldviews are both crucial to making lasting changes. They'll also discover how the church can reach out to the younger generation by joining them in the race to save the planet.

*A Hopeful Earth* will bridge the gap between Jesus and the environment and guide readers in understanding that living as good stewards of God's creation is a significant component of what it means to follow Jesus. It will be in paperback, from Abingdon Press, ISBN-10: 1426710372, in December 2010.

I haven't read them yet, but they have to be good because Sally is my sister and they wouldn't let a Bishop write anything bad!



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### Calender of Events

<b>November</b>	28		First Sunday of Advent
	28	5:00 p.m.	Movie Night at Menno
<b>December</b>	1	6-8 p.m.	Midweek at Menno; Women's Bible Study
	3-5		Men's Retreat at Camp Camrec
	5		2nd Sunday of Advent
	7	6:00 p.m.	Church Board meets at Regan's
	8	6-8 p.m.	Midweek at Menno; Women's Bible Study
	9	9-2 p.m.	Menno Women in Mission meet
	12		3rd Sunday of Advent
	19		4th Sunday of Advent
	26		1st Sunday after Christmas
	28-30		Sr. High Snow Camp at Camp Camrec
<b>January 2011</b>	2		Epiphany
	5	6-8 p.m.	Midweek at Menno; Women's Bible Study
	12	6-8 p.m.	Midweek at Menno; Women's Bible Study
	17-22		MDS Team in Diamond, LA