

## 34th Mennonite Country Auction & Relief Sale

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale was held on October 1, 2011, on the Menno Mennonite Church grounds. The weather was nice, smells from the different food booths lingered in the air, people were visiting while waiting in the various booth lines, bidders were registering for their auction numbers, announcements were being made over the public address system, vehicles are arriving at the sale grounds, and recording artist, Sherri Farmer, from Evergreen, CO, was singing gospel songs and hymns on the auction stage.



Sherri Farmer

While Sherri Farmer sang, people were getting their sausage and hams, kraut runzas, Amish cheeses, stone ground flours, Canadian maple syrup, fresh homemade pies, freshly pressed apple cider, crafts from Ten Thousand Villages, baked goods, crafts, quilt items, and other foods to eat.

Auctioneer, Jim Stucky, told the crowd of kids and their parents about the rules for the Kid's Auction. Once bidding started, the kids got into the auction. When it was all over, some got what they bid on and some learned the hard lesson of not al-



Auctioning of the loaf of bread for communion

ways getting what you wanted.

At noon, the main auction started with the traditional loaf of bread, which will be used in the Sunday communion worship service. The loaf of bread sold for \$1600. The highest paid for a quilt this year was \$2500, for the "Colorwash Irish Chain, queen sized quilt. The "Trip Around the World/Star King" quilt, made by the MCC Quilt Room, Ephrata, Pa, brought in \$2100.



One of many quilts auctioned

By the time the whole auction was over, with selling of the many fine quilts and craft items, the sale brought in over \$105,000. This figure also includes some presale items such as rental of the tent though out the year.

On Sunday, the joint worship service was held at Menno Church, with Bob Buxman giving the message. You can see many of the quilts and auction items, as well as the results on MCA's website at [www.mennonitecountryauction.net](http://www.mennonitecountryauction.net). Thanks to all who contributed of their time, talents, and money to make this year's sale a success.



Kid's Auction



The winter wheat has been tucked into the fields and gardens have been put to sleep. This is a season of death; death of light and of life. For unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. In the same way, the crisp autumn days march resolutely toward winter as the growing darkness threatens to swallow the rapidly waning light.

The memory of the joy of Jesus' resurrection gently lays down its head and nods off to sleep as the Church enters a season of mystery and hope-yet-to-be. This is a time of darkness; a time when we are reminded that the God of light, revealed in Jesus, is also the God of mystery whose otherness is hidden from the foundations of time and space, known only through the darkness of faith. For

now we see as though in a mirror dimly.

There is no resurrection without death.

There is no faith without mystery.

There is no light without darkness.

And yet ...

The God of mystery *has* been revealed in Jesus. A light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. This season of darkness and mystery is also a season of faith and light. Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Faith is like a tiny light in a sea of darkness.

My favorite thing about this season is the tiny lights; bright stars shining in a dark sky on our family's after-dinner walk, and twinkling Christmas lights. I love that the contrasting darkness seems to make these tiny lights blaze all the brighter.

Because of Jesus, there is no

death without resurrection.

Because of Jesus, there is no mystery without the assurance of faith.

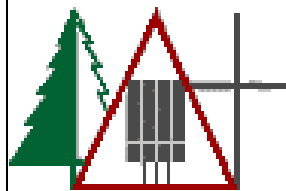
Because of Jesus, there is no darkness without dawn.

For this reason some celebrate the longest night of the year, the winter solstice, with a festival of lights. For this reason we fill the sanctuary with light on Epiphany Sunday. Because a light has shone in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

For this reason we wait, like the world waited on that dark night so many years ago, we wait for the fullness of God's kingdom to be revealed in all its glorious light.

Until then people of faith are but stars set ablaze by the dark night sky, twinkling Christmas lights. How will you shine the light of Christ this Christmas?

Pastor Matthew



Unfortunately, this year our fundraising is significantly behind. Please consider making a year end gift to Camp Camrec.

Aaron Reimer will be ending his term as treasurer this coming April. Please prayerfully discern whether you or someone in your congregation would be prepared to serve in this role. Contact a Camrec board member for more information.

December 27-29, 2011  
January 13-16, 2012  
February 17-20, 2012  
February 19-22, 2012  
March 15-18, 2012  
April 27-29, 2012  
June 15-17, 2012  
July 9-14, 2012  
July 17-21, 2012  
July 27-29, 2012

Sr. High Snow Camp  
Seattle Mennonite Church Retreat  
Evergreen Mennonite Church Retreat  
Ski Camp (new, for all WMF churches)  
Quilting Retreat  
WMF Annual Meeting  
Birds & Blossoms Retreat (new)  
Jr/Sr High Camp  
Junior Camp  
Pre-Junior Camp

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: [Matthewpsyoder@mennonite.net](mailto:Matthewpsyoder@mennonite.net), [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) or postal mail at: 379 W. Harder Rd. – Ritzville, WA 99169. If you have something for the next *Beacon*, contact **Donna Hostick** at:

**[djhostick@charter.net](mailto:djhostick@charter.net)**

Thanks to Joan Smith, Gene Claassen, Megan Hudson, Cleon Claassen, for the pictures in this issue.



## Women's Retreat 2011

By Donna Hostick

This year, Menno was the host church for WMF's Women's Retreat held at Camp CAMREC. Unlike previous years, retreat was held in the fall over the first weekend in November, since the Quilting Retreat, Annual Meeting, and Menno's retreat are also held in the spring. While there were many other conflicts with the weekend, attendance was high, with over 40 women attending. Whether Women's retreat remains in the fall or is moved back to spring time will be up to the women at Warden Mennonite Church, as they will be the hosts next year.

Diane Gering led the Menno team in organizing this year's retreat. The theme was "Celebrating the colors, shapes, and textures of our journey" with guest speaker Pat Herschberger of Zion Mennonite Church in Albany, Oregon. To get us started on the theme, Donna Hostick invited the attendees to create a name tag whose color and shape represented their journey. Later, during the Friday evening "get acquainted" time, we all shared a little bit about our color or shape and why we chose it. We also shared something from our journey that we were thankful for – the subject area for the thankfulness was determined by the color of M&M that each participant had selected. Following the get acquainted activities, we moved to the main lodge for snacks and fellowship. Dorene Claassen, Melanie Gering, and Katherine Swinger provided snacks for the weekend.



Pat Herschberger

Saturday morning breakfast was followed by a spiritual stretching exercise and devotion led by Susan Schaffer, accompanied by selections from the "Sing the Journey" soundtrack. This spiritual stretching occurred again Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Shawna Yoder provided a devotion to open the morning session, then Pat Herschberger then led us in an exploration of our journeys, our hardships, and the companions that travel with us, using the story of Naomi and Ruth as our biblical guide.

Following lunch, we took a group photo outside (with much thanks to Joan Smith of Warden for staging the photo and Bill Dyck for taking the picture), then Sharla Dyck and Linda Reimer helped attendees design and make cards. The afternoon also allowed time for hiking, reading, and other activities.

Late afternoon, Diane showed a DVD, (helped by Bill), of her Mom, Lorene Stucky, demonstrating how to make poppyseed rolls. Diane served poppyseed rolls with tea.



After another excellent meal (all meals prepared by Diane Gering, Sandy Bauer, Butch Gering, Bill Dyck, and Warde Herschberger), we held a fashion show featuring dresses and outfits from a variety of decades.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Harvest Fest at Menno Church

This year's Menno Church's Harvest Fest was on Sunday November 20, 2011. Guest speakers were Wanda and Kevin Dorsing of the Warden Mennonite Church. Wanda and Kevin live on the Royal Slope area where they are raising their three children, Alisha, Trenton, and Trevor. Kevin is the manager of the processing plant, the Dorsing Farms have.

Wanda spoke during the morning worship service about "what's inside the cup". How we should not only keep the outside of the cup clean, but the need to work on the inside of the cup as well. Kevin spoke during the Sunday School time about Mennonite Economic Development Agency, (MEDA), and their involvement and what MEDA does. Kevin is a board member of MEDA. Bob Kroeker of MEDA spoke a little too. For more information on MEDA, you can go to their website at: [www.meda.org](http://www.meda.org).

Michael Claassen shared what has been happening at Mid-Week during sharing time. The kids showed some of the craft projects they have been working on.

The morning worship service and the fellowship meal was also attended by members of the Warden Mennonite Church. The fellowship meal consisted of the normal potluck dishes and well as a large table of pies of various varieties. I know at the table I ate at, some people made two trips to the pie table!



Wanda Dorsing



*(Continued from page 3)*

Each church brought along a selection of outfits and models. Katherine Swinger, acting as Mistress of Ceremonies, did a wonderful job announcing each outfit and providing a description. A number of wedding dresses were included, which offered an interesting look into the styles of each day. Emily Kagele and Amy Reimer did a wonderful job as Menno's models, with assistance in their multiple clothing changes provided by Diane Gering and Linda Reimer.

Sunday morning breakfast and spiritual stretching were followed by a devotion from Shawna Yoder and a message from Pat Herschberger, accompanied by lots of singing led by Diane Gering. Attending from Menno this year were Rose Bauer, Delma Bauer, Sarah Bauer, Sandy Bauer, Sharla Dyck, Marge Dyck, Dorothy Franz, Diane Gering, Donna Hostick, Julie Kagele, Emily Kagele, Sharon Meyer, Linda Reimer, Amy Reimer, Susan Schaffer, Katherine Swinger, Shawna Yoder, and Ma-linda Zilliox.

## MY FIRST AND LAST

By Bill Dyck

This is my last *Menno Beacon* as editor! Yup, I quit. When I started being the editor, I told myself I would quit when it wasn't fun no more. That time has come. I basically am "burned out" doing the *Beacon*. I have put together twenty-eight *Menno Beacons* in six years. Putting the *Beacon* out, takes a lot of my spare time. I do have a day job!

In my faith journey being editor, I have discovered a very important thing about the readers of the *Beacon*, most of you do not regularly attend Menno Church every Sunday. The family of *Beacon* readers are distance members, relatives of someone at Menno, just have an interest in Mennonites, know of someone that lives in the area that goes to church here, had ancestors that lived in this area, or has a family member buried at Menno. That covers a big range of readers. Readers begin at Menno Church's immediate family, to California, to Kansas, to Minnesota, to New York, and to my son in Iraq.

As one former pastor at Menno Church told me, "I read the *Menno Beacon* because I was (I still feel) a part of the Menno Church family. While some of the people I don't know now, I still am encouraged how a rural church can have so much influence on the lives of the people around them".

In my first *Beacon*, I broke down the demographics of where the *Beacon* is mailed to, it hasn't changed. While we at Menno don't think our news isn't much, it can mean a lot to readers from a distance. I have tried several things/ideas in the *Beacon* over the years, some worked, some didn't. I have tried to cover some news and events at our sister church, Warden Mennonite Church, and events at our church camp, Camp Camrec. While Camrec has its own newsletter, *The Chumstick*, it doesn't reach out to some of the *Beacon* readers. Some of those readers have supported Warden and Camrec with their prayers and financial giving.

I see the *Menno Beacon* changing. To keep it going, readers from near and far will have to take an interest in sending information to the *Beacon* editor, or it will slowly die. I also see the *Beacon* changing formats. Whether we like it or not, I see the *Beacon* going out electronically, maybe as an email, part of the Menno Church website, website of its own, or more likely a Blog, Facebook or Twitter page.

In my survey I did on mailing the *Beacon* by paper or electronically, those who responded, 90% wanted the paper version. Some liked the electronic version on Menno's website, because the pictures are in color and so much easier to see. Some didn't care. Some wanted the electronic version because it takes less paper and mailing costs. For those who don't have a computer or access to one, this will be a problem.

With the electronic age here, with computers, smart phones, iPod's, laptops, and tablets, we can reach the world wherever you are. I recently read in a computer magazine, and they noted that the new tablets are not new. History does repeat itself. Years ago, a man named Moses climbed a mountain, (signal was better there) and God wrote on his tablets! His message is still with us today. I wonder how many people (including Christians) will expect Christ to notify us when He comes again on our smart phone, tablet, or any other electronic device? Will we "miss the ark", because we are coming too dependent on such devices?

I would like to thank all of you that responded to the survey. It generated a nice flow of donations for mailing the *Menno Beacon* and I thank you all for your generous donations. There are months that donations coming in have more than covered the mailing costs of the *Menno Beacon*. This also creates a problem, some want the *Beacon* mailed and some would rather look on the website, we need at least 200 pieces to be able to bulk mail, which reduces the cost of mailing down to a third of first class mailing rate. We normally print 250 copies, with about 235 being mailed, the rest delivered manually or archived. I don't see doing both mail and elec-

(Continued on page 6)



## News & Notes:

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Beau & Rebecca Froese on the birth of their first son, Micah Aaron, on November 15, 2011. He weighed 5#, 14 oz. and measured 18.5 inches long! Local maternal grandparents are Cleon & Elizabeth Claassen and great-grandpa Clint Claassen. Paternal grandparents are Ray and Dawn Froese. Great-grandparents are Waldo and Doris Froese and Evie Tubbs all of Kansas.



**Congratulations** to Aaron & Amber (Rediger) Schroeder on the birth of their first son, Garrett Michael Schroeder, born September 15, 2011, 7:55 pm, weighing 7 lbs 10 ozs, measuring 20 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Terry & Jerilee Rediger, Turpin, OK. Great grandmother is Dorothy Kinzie, Elkart, IN. Paternal grandparents are Mike & Kathy Schroeder, South Bend, WA. You can contact them at 2233 Great Western Street, Douglas, AK 99824.

Emmitt and Julie Cain of Ritzville, announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura M. to Michael M. Osborn, son of Tracy Osborn of Ritzville, and Earl and Sandy Pipkin of El Cajon, CA. The future bride is a graduate of Ritzville, High School and is a student at Central Washington University majoring in pre-nursing and nutrition. The future groom is a graduate of Ritzville High School and a student at Central Washington University majoring in safety and health management. A June 30, 2012 wedding is being planned in Ritzville.

Tessa Alfonso and Peter Franz were married Saturday, November 5, 2011, at a private ceremony held in Hawaii. There was a celebration at the home of Curt and Sarah Franz on Saturday, November 12. Tessa and Peter are making their home on the Franz Ranch, Ritzville, WA, where Peter is employed on the family farm.

**Remember** that you can find Camrec's "The Chumstick" newsletter at: <http://camrec.org/the-chumstick>

PNMC conference news can be found at: [www.pnmc.org](http://www.pnmc.org) The Evangel is only published electronically now and can be found three times a year at the following: [www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel](http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel)

You can go to Menno Church's website to find all the above in the links tab. The *Menno Beacon* will still be on the website too, as well as the bulletins. <http://menno.wa.us.mennonite.net>

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tronic version.

I would like to thank my wife, Sharla, for putting up with "proofing" the *Beacon*. In the beginning, I would have 8 -10 drafts, now I usually have 2- 3. Also I would like to thank Phyllis Franz, (even though she isn't with us anymore), for her advice and encouragement she gave me in the beginning. I still ask myself, how would Phyllis write this article? Last but not least, I would like to thank Sharon Meyer for helping me understand the printing and assembling of the *Menno Beacon*. There is more to printing and assembling, than one thinks.

I haven't done editorials in the past in the *Menno Beacon*, this is my one and only! Thanks for helping me in this faith journey of mine. I will be taking on some new projects for both the church and family. Many thanks to all of you that submitted articles or pictures for me for the *Beacon* and also a big thanks to those that gave words of thanks and encouragement.

I am happy to say that Donna (Stucky) Hostick will be the new *Menno Beacon* editor. She is not really new to the *Beacon*, because she was editor prior to me for three years. Please help her in sending your family news to her and keeping the *Menno Beacon* going. What changes will she do with the *Beacon*? Keep reading. Good luck Donna.

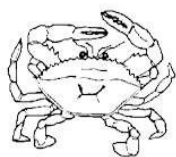
Her email address is: [djhostick@charter.net](mailto:djhostick@charter.net)

## News & Notes:

Minnie Franz celebrated her 96th birthday on Saturday, November 12, having lunch with her Spokane family--Jay, Carma, JC and Roberta. Mid afternoon Riverview Care Center had a birthday party for Minnie that Jay and Carma also attended. Minnie enjoyed her special day, ending with listening to the Cougars win their football game.

Yvonne Franz Redelfs partnered with Earl Franz recently, on a "Prudent" bus tour group of 50, out of Hillboro, KS. We traveled 3500 miles, with so many points of interest along the route, Longaberger Basket Factory, Hersheys Chocolate Factory, Gettysburg Battlefield, guided tours through New York including the Ellis Island area, (My Grandfather Franz actually came through "Castle Gardens" in 1874 before Ellis Island was opened ), Ground Zero, guided tours in Wash. D.C. with visits to the Capital, War Memorials, Lincoln Memorial at night, Washington and Jefferson homes, and a day with a guide visiting the Lancaster, PA, Amish culture, and yes, the Liberty Bell does have a crack in it! We felt a renewed spirit of appreciation for the "Insight and Foresight" of our early leaders to establish a Democracy with all the freedoms of choice in speech, religion and so much more.

Donna, Cody, Dean, and Paula Hostick were joined by Donna's parents, Dick and Beth (Schrag) Stucky in Seaside, Oregon, over Veteran's Day weekend. While the weather wasn't particularly



cooperative for clamming, they had some success with their crab pots.

This year, the women's Bible study group chose *To Live is Christ: The Life and Ministry of Paul* by Beth Moore as our ongoing study. We have been meeting on Wednesday evenings since mid-September. The first half hour of our time together is spent building community – sharing prayer concerns, joys and struggles. After that, an hour is spent in study. Two weeks are spent on each session from the book. One week the group views a teaching DVD by Beth Moore. Discussion of the printed study follows the next week. Topics of study so far this year have included Paul's call and his first and second missionary journeys.

Rev. Charles and Thirawar Duplessis have once again experienced being displaced from their home. The home they have was built by Mennonite Disaster Service and happens to be one of three homes MDS built that had contaminated drywall made in China. They have moved to her sister's home and MDS is now in the process of renovating the house down to the frame. All wiring and pipes will need to be removed. MDS will be seeing the project through to completion and it is going to be quite an expense. Contributions to MDS may be earmarked for the Duplessis home renovation and sent to 583 Airport Rd., Lititz, PA 175543.

Aubrie Lynnette Johnson, was born October 25, 2011 at 8:16am. She weighed 7lbs 10oz and was 19 inches long. Parents are Chris and Meghan Johnson of Spokane, WA and big sister Kenedee. Grandma is Gail Hudson of Kennewick, WA. Great-grandpa is Earl Franz of Lind, WA.



Dorothy Franz has become a great-grandmother for the sixth time. Her granddaughter Lori Franz along with husband John Atkinson and nearly 3 year old daughter Hazel Franz of San Francisco, CA welcomed Zoe Jean Franz, a 7 lb 12 oz baby girl on November 19th at 5:07am. Lori is daughter to John Franz (who resides in Las Vegas, NV with his wife Linda and son Scott) and Jean Kope of Renton,

Herb and Terry Janzen have moved. They moved next door to a house that Uncle Hugo, Tante Susa and Eva Marie, Ruth Hidergarde and Gertrude lived in years ago. They are dealing with downsizing after being in one house for over sixty years. They also became great-great-grandparents recently.



Katherine Swinger recently returned from a week in New York City.

Daughter Suzanne

Salita joined her for a long weekend of shopping and celebrating their December birthdays early. Kay enjoyed seeing several Broadway shows and the Diego Rivera exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. A highlight of the week was the *Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Biblical Times* exhibit at the Discovery Times Square Museum. The exhibit was assembled by the Israel Antiquities Authority and according to exhibition curator Dr. Rise Levitt Kohn, is "one of the most comprehensive of its kind ever mounted. The pots, coins, weapons, jewelry, and of course, the scrolls on display constitute a momentous contribution to our cultural legacy." Also on display was an in-scale recreation of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, with a three-ton block of stone from the wall itself.

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



## Calendar of Events

<b>December</b>	11		Third Sunday of Advent
	14	5:30-8:00 p.m.	Midweek @ Menno and Women's Bible Study
	18		Fourth Sunday of Advent
	24		Christmas Eve
	25		Christmas Day
	27-29		Sr High Snow Camp at Camp Camrec
<b>January</b>	4	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Midweek @ Menno
	6		Epiphany
	8		Epiphany Sunday
	10-21		Yoders on vacation
	11	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Midweek @ Menno
	15		Jeff Long, speaker
	15-19		MDS Service Project in Birmingham, AL
	16-18		Pastor Matthew attends EMU School for Leadership Training
	25	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Midweek @ Menno