

# The Menno Beacon

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## PNMC Annual Meeting: Pastor's Delegate Report

By Matthew Yoder

This year's annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, held at Sendero Church in Moses Lake on June 22-24, was an amazing and blessed time of fellowship and business.

Events began with the Pastor-Spouse dinner hosted on the yard here at Menno on Thursday evening. Friday and Saturday saw our time divided between morning and evening worship and afternoon business sessions.

As one of the newest pastors in the conference, and pastor of one of the hosting congregations, I benefitted from this experience on a number of levels. First of all, it was my privilege to represent the vitality and commitment of the Menno congregation at this gathering. Our guests were very impressed with the organization and administration of the event and I lost no opportunity to share about our lively little body of believers doing faith together here in eastern Washington.

The annual meeting was also a good opportunity for me to connect with other young pastors in the conference. Some, like Pastor Amy Epp of Seattle Mennonite Church and Pastor Rachel Ringenberg-Miller of Portland Mennonite, I've met before and was glad to see again. Others I had not met before included Pastor John David Thacker of Anchorage Mennonite and Pastor Megan Good of Albany Mennonite. Fellowshiping with my peers at this meeting helped me to develop a feeling of camaraderie and a sense of place in the larger conference picture.

In addition to fellowshiping with my peers, the PNMC annual meeting offered a welcome opportunity to connect with seasoned veteran pastors in the conference, to learn from their wisdom and experience. The counsel and guidance I received from these mentors is invaluable to me.

Of course, we conducted some business as well, and some exciting business at that! Our new Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson-Pitts was formally installed on Friday evening. Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, Ervin Stutzman, delivered a total of six messages on the theme of "Holistic Witness in the Name of Jesus." And it wouldn't have been annual meeting without a very public, very heated (and very tongue-in-cheek) discussion about which state produces the best potatoes.

I found two items of business discussed in the delegate sessions particularly interesting. First was the conference's implementation of a consensus-discernment model of business similar to that employed at the national Pittsburgh convention last year. Consensus-discernment doesn't necessarily mean that everyone comes to agreement, but it emphasizes seeking God's best in contrast to the traditional decision-making model that tends to push organizations into picking the "lesser of two evils." The second item of interest was a discussion of which priorities in the Purposeful Plan (adopted by Mennonite Church USA delegates at Pittsburgh) would be most beneficial for PNMC churches to focus on.

In conclusion, the 2012 PNMC annual meeting in Moses Lake was an invaluable experience. I deeply appreciated this opportunity to serve Menno as a delegate to the PNMC annual meeting and I highly recommend you consider serving your congregation in this way in the future.

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor (who tries for at least four times per year). 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 Donna Hostick, editor. You can contact Donna at: 509-585-9214 or email at: [djhostick@charter.net](mailto:djhostick@charter.net).



How do you know spiritual vitality when you see it?

Recently I had the privilege of observing and participating in a Sunday morning worship service at Menno that was led by a women's Bible study group from the congregation. These women have been meeting together on Wednesday evenings for a number of years. They gather together to study the Bible and other books, pray, and walk with one another in faith and life.

Last spring they studied Ann Voskamp's "One Thousand Gifts" together and, at the conclusion of their study, decided to share communion together. I was deeply honored when they invited me to come administer the bread and the cup. As I sat quietly soaking up their simple liturgy of meaningful scriptures and poignant reflections on *eucharist*, I realized that it was, in fact, me that was being ministered to.

It was in reflecting on that experience, and on the quiet, unassuming presence of this very special group of women in the life of the congregation, that got me wondering what it might be like to invite this group to craft and lead a Sunday morning worship service based on their spring book study. To my delight they agreed, and each of them participated in the process in one form or another whether through prayer, preparation of the elements (it being all about *eucharist*, we simply couldn't pass up the opportunity for Eucharist), or being up front on Sunday morning. As the women's Bible study led us in their homespun liturgy of scripture, song, and story, our worship took on a richness and warmth I had not experienced before. What made this worship service so unique and special?

I have been blessed to get to know these women over the past couple years of ministry here at Menno. As I have learned bits and pieces of their history and their journey together I have come to deeply appreciate who they are and what they do. They read and interpret scripture together. They pray together. They stand by each other through the good times, and through some very bad times. This, of course, is the very heart of Christian faith in an Anabaptist perspective. Scripture communally interpreted by the gathered body, group prayer, and mutual support in faith and life. *This* is true faith community. And I strongly suspect that it is the source of these women's authentic spiritual vitality.

The women who participated in crafting the service, both up front and behind the scenes, led us into particularly intimate worship from the riches of their shared faith journey. I have found their faith and their candor deeply inspirational. My prayer is that every person of Christian faith would experience the kind of strength and vitality that comes from deep rootedness in a community of shared faith like the one that is the Menno Women's Bible Study.

**One Thousand Gifts Challenge** Inspired by the church service put on by the Menno Women's Bible Study group, I'd like to fill the next issue of the Menno Beacon with as many (target 1,000) "everyday" gifts from God for which we are thankful. If each household were to submit at least 5-10, we should be able to achieve this goal, hopefully without duplicates! Send your list by October 14, 2012 to [djhostick@charter.net](mailto:djhostick@charter.net) with the subject line "Beacon Gifts." Thanks!



*Sam Long, son of Jeff and Deana Long, graduated June 2 from Moses Lake High School.*



*Emily Kagele, daughter of Julie Kagele, graduated June 8 from Wenatchee High School.*

*Michael Osborne and Laura Cain, daughter of Jullie (Kagele) and Emmitt Cain and granddaughter of Erna Kagele, were married June 30.*



**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 be on the website too, as well as the bulletins.

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

The Menno Beacon now has a group page on Facebook; just search for "Menno Beacon" and request to join the group. This group is still in its formative stage, so you never know what you might find there!



## News & Notes:

A number of Menno's youth attended summer camps at Camrec this year. Highlights, as reported by some of the kids, included:

Devin: "I enjoyed meeting new friends and being with friends from Menno. Our cabin's pillow fights were AWE-SOME!"

Linnea: "My favorite part of camp was playing "Capture the flag" during rec. time. I'm excited because I will get to see one of my counselors at the MCC sale."

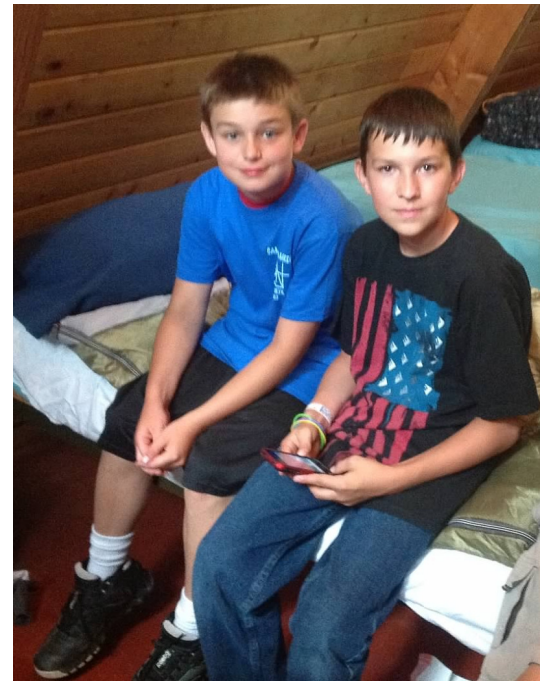


Over 150 people were in attendance at Earl Franz's Farm Home for his 85th Birthday Party in June. It was a beautiful day to eat and visit outside. His sister, Bernice Krehbiel, flew in from California, and his brother-in-law, Dan Dalke, came from Kansas. Earl was thrilled to personally sign copies of his recently published autobiography, "A Pebble in the Water," for many of the guests. Pictured: Earl with his sister Bernice.

*Photo courtesy of Murray Krehbiel*



Paula: "The thing I liked best about camp was going on the hike up that big 30-foot hill."



Middle left: Ellie and Linnea  
Left: Andrew, Zach, "Campy," and Paula  
Above: Devin and Riley



*Photos courtesy of Susan Schafer and Donna Hostick*

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*Remember that the Mennonite Country Auction is just around the corner! You can keep abreast of all the news at <http://mennonitecountryauction.mennonite.net/> or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MennoniteCountryAuction>*

### Calender of Events

<b>August</b>	26		Penny Power Event begins—Diane Gering, Children's Story
	26	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School Picnic, Menno Church Grounds
<b>September</b>	4	noon	Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
	9		Penny Power Event—Elizabeth Claassen, Children's Story
	9	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School Classes begin
	11	7:00 p.m.	Church Board meets
	12	1:00 p.m.	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
	13	9 am-2 pm	Menno Women In Mission
	16		Penny Power Event—Elizabeth Claassen, Children's Story
	23		Penny Power Event—Elizabeth Claassen, Children's Story
	30		Penny Power Event—Elizabeth Claassen, Children's Story
<b>October</b>	2	noon	Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
	6		Mennonite Country Auction
	9	2:00 p.m.	Worship Committee meets
	10	1:00 p.m.	Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
	11	9 am-2 pm	Menno Women In Mission
	13		Fall Fest at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas
	19-21		Women's Retreat at Camrec
	29-31		PNMC Pastor/Spouse Retreat: Menucha Retreat Center, Oregon
<b>November</b>	4		Harvest Fest