

## Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting

By Matthew Yoder

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference convened at Warner Pacific College in Portland, OR on Friday, June 21. This year's meeting focused on three main areas of discussion: the role of delegates in the PNMC, the work of PNMC, and the financing of PNMC.

The first delegate session opened with a roll call of congregations in which delegates were asked to share, in a sentence or two, 1) a "God-sighting" that happened in his or her congregation, 2) one issue facing his or her congregation, and 3) how the issue is being addressed. A document containing the sharing from each congregation can be made available upon request.

Delegates also heard reports from Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Pitts, Moderator, Jeryl Hollinger, and Treasurer, Harold Nussbaum, and elected PNMC Board members for the coming term. This year's delegate body conducted business using the Biblical Communal Discernment model (see Phoenix Convention report, paragraph 7).

Discussion about the role of delegates outlined three main areas of

responsibility: delegates conduct the business of PNMC; delegates gather for group discernment shaped by worship, prayer and meditation; and delegates serve as a communication channel between Conference leadership and local congregations. PNMC member congregations are being encouraged to nominate delegates that represent the concerns of the congregation, and who can serve at annual meetings for multiple years in a row to facilitate growth in the Conference-congregation relationship and communication.

The delegate body also discussed the work of PNMC to facilitate healthy congregations. The four areas of Conference work are based on the assessed needs of PNMC member congregations at this time. The four areas of work are: assisting in pastoral transitions, helping congregations plan for the future, equipping lay leaders, and strengthening the ministry of pastors.

Questions that shaped delegate discussion on PNMC finances were: PNMC has been funded primarily by member congregations. Is it time to start looking elsewhere for funding in order to ease the financial burden on local congregations? How can we move beyond a scarcity model and start finding/channeling funds to what

we feel called to do as a Conference? These questions yielded fruitful discussion and it was also shared that Conference has received funds from the sale of their building in Eugene, OR. At-large Board member, Joseph Penner, shared the Board's vision for using the funds as grant money for developing new, local congregations and ministries in PNMC.

One final noteworthy item from this year's annual meeting: this was my first experience leading a Conference seminar. The seminar, "Rural Church," held on Friday afternoon, was well attended. We shared some of our experiences being rural churches, explored the biblical vision for rural community, and compared biblical values of rural community to the values of our host culture. I received appreciation for raising thought provoking questions and issues, and for involving the participants and including small-group discussion time. Areas for improvement included clearer direction, sharper focus on the realities of our real-life experience, more practical "how-to" application, and opportunity to give and receive encouragement. As your delegate, I continue to look for ways to communicate the importance of rural church issues and the role we play in the PNMC.

## MCUSA Conference: Phoenix 2013 Report

By Matthew Yoder

Here it is at last! The long-awaited, much anticipated Phoenix 2013 Convention Report. As always, it was an honor and a real pleasure to serve as one of this fine congregation's delegates to the biennial Mennonite Church USA Convention.

This year's convention was held in downtown Phoenix, Arizona and the theme was "Citizens of God's Kingdom: Healed in Hope." The theme verses were Psalm 24:1, Philippians 3:20-21, Romans 5:1-5 and Ephesians 2:14-22.

Out of sensitivity to immigration and border issues that are of special concern in Arizona, this year's convention schedule followed a unique format. As in the past, meals, regular worship times, and a multitude of seminar offerings were scheduled in amongst delegate sessions, and an exhibit hall was open during afternoon and evening hours.

However, this year's delegate assembly convened only 8 sessions which were scheduled during morning, afternoon and early evening hours on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. This was done to accommodate the new "Learning Experiences" organized and designed to raise awareness and educate convention-goers about the many complex immigration issues that shape human life in the Phoenix area. Delegates were encouraged to participate in Learning Experiences on Monday and

Wednesday when no delegate sessions were scheduled.

I was tremendously blessed this year to be able to participate in two learning experiences. On Monday I joined a group that traveled by van from Phoenix to Florence, AZ to tour the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center there. After our tour of the ICE detention center, we drove a short distance down the road to visit the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. FIRRP is a non-profit organization providing pro bono legal assistance to detainees in the Florence correctional system. For more reflections on my experience in Florence, check out our August 18 Sunday morning worship available on the Menno website.

On Wednesday, I took a bus with a group of about 30 other convention-goers to visit the border town of Nogales. Nogales straddles the border wall between Mexico and the U.S. Part of Nogales is in Sonora and the other part in Arizona. After passing through customs, we visited Grupos Beta in Nogales, Sonora (Mexico). Grupos Beta is a government organization that provides humanitarian aid to individuals migrating through Mexico either to or from the U.S. We also visited HEPAC (Hogar de Esperanza y Paz – Home of Hope and Peace), a community development project that hosts a children's food security program, adult education facilities, and a women's cooperative. To learn more about HEPAC, visit <http://www.borderlinks.org/education/partnerships/hepac>.

This year's delegate business was conducted according to Biblical Communal Discernment. Biblical Communal Discernment is a way of grounding a meeting in prayerful focus on listening carefully to what God may be saying through scripture. This focus can be applied to any style of group decision making. At the Phoenix Convention, it was applied to Robert's Rules of Order under which delegate business was conducted. Details about Biblical Communal Discernment can be found here: [http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Guidelines\\_for\\_Biblical-Communal\\_Discernment.pdf](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Guidelines_for_Biblical-Communal_Discernment.pdf)

The content of our business was guided by the priorities of the Purposeful Plan of Mennonite Church USA adopted at the Pittsburgh 2011 convention. In addition to reflecting on the seven priorities of the Purposeful Plan, the delegate body moved to embrace Mennonite Health Services Alliance as a member organization, adopted updated bylaws, and moved to accept the following resolutions: "Creation Care," and "Protecting and Nurturing our Children and Youth." Deliberation on a third resolution to reaffirm or update our 2003 statement on immigration indicated that, as a nationwide and increasingly global church, we need to update the language and content of the resolution.

There is an online summary of the Purposeful Plan here <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp>

*(Continued on page 3)*

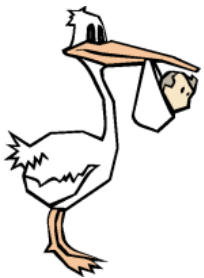
(Continued from page 2)

[-content/uploads/2011/12/Purposeful Plan-flier.pdf](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/PurposefulPlan-2012Feb22_ApprovedByEB.pdf). The full Plan is available here [http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/PurposefulPlan\\_2012Feb22\\_ApprovedByEB.pdf](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/PurposefulPlan_2012Feb22_ApprovedByEB.pdf)

The minutes of the 2013 Phoenix convention delegate session, as well as updated documents and resolutions are available online here <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/convention/delegate-info/>

While it always seems as though there's more work to do as a denomination than time at convention will allow, I came away from this year's convention with the strong impression that our congregation is privileged to participate in the life of an agile and responsive denomination that is moving in encouraging directions as we ponder what it means to be disciples of Jesus in a largely post-Christian world.

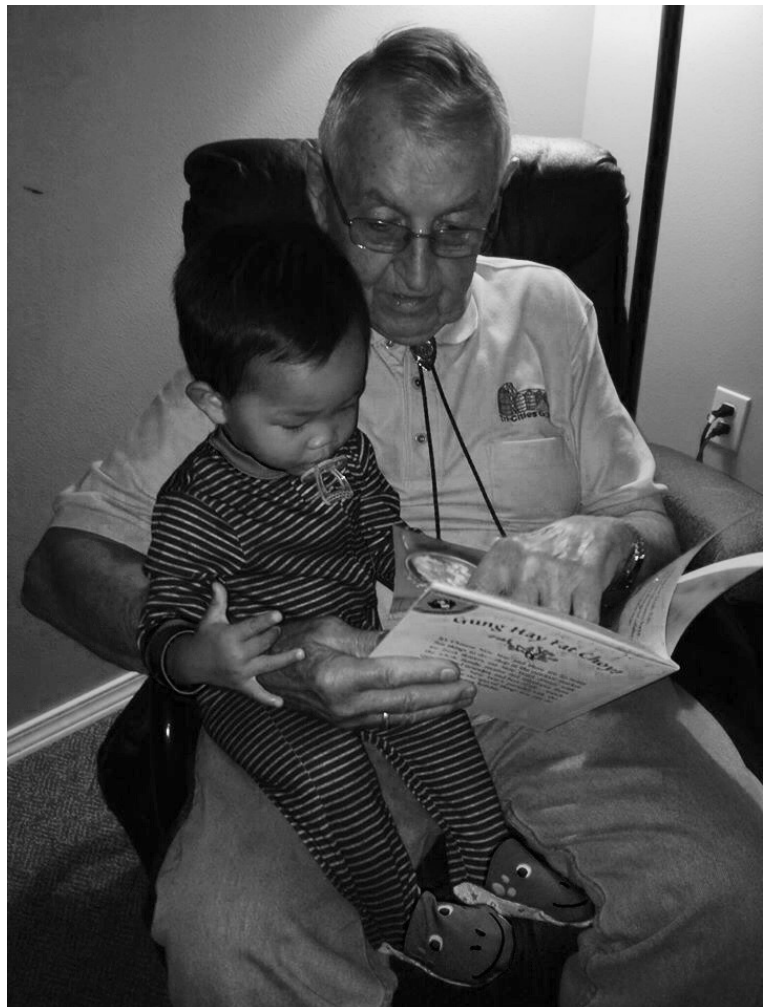
The next Mennonite Church USA convention will be hosted in Kansas City on the first week of July in 2015. I hope to see you there!



*Welcome New Arrivals!*

Congratulations to Sydney Filan and Roy Salinas, who welcomed daughter Scarlett Genevieve on August 9, 2013. Grandparents are Jeanette (Franz) and Damon Filan, and Great-Grandfather is Earl Franz. (Pictured top right)

Congratulations to Jamie (Hudson) and Ryan Brault on the arrival of their new son, Benjamin Chung-Jie, born May 3, 2012 in Tainan, Taiwan. Grandmother is Gail (Franz) Hudson and Great-Grandfather is Earl Franz. (Pictured bottom right)



## News & Notes:

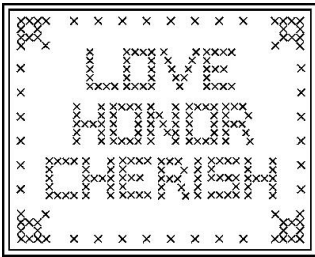
Sydney Filan graduated from Eastern Washington University on June 15th with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a minor in Spanish.

Michelle Slate graduated from Whitworth University on May 19th with a double major in Mathematics and Theater.



Mark Claassen (son of Cleon and Elizabeth Claassen) and Kim Straka were married June 29, 2013.

In June, Nicole Bailes (daughter of Maria Janzen and granddaughter of Herb and Terry Janzen) was married to Mike Stromberger. They have bought a home in Ritzville.



On July 13, Kim Janzen Bailey (daughter of Ron Janzen and granddaughter of Herb and Terry Janzen) remarried Todd Bailey in the Spokane Valley. Kim's daughter Kayli was able to attend with her husband and three children so Herb and Terry became acquainted with their great-great grandchildren which include twins, a boy and girl. They live in West Virginia.

Herbert and Terry Janzen celebrated 65 years of marriage with an open house on June 19th. Everything was arranged by their children.

TourMagination's (Toronto, Canada) July group Tour of Israel and Jordan included Earl Franz. Dr. Nelson K. Rabil of Berne, Ind. a specialist in "Holy Land" history plus an Arab Christian lady as bus guide helped us understand the many sites visited. Jerusalem, Mt. of Olives, The Wailing Wall, The West Bank, and the WALL, Petra, Mt. Nebo, Jericho, Boat ride on Red Sea, Swim in Dead Sea, Jordan River, visit to a Mosque and several churches, Ancient Ruins in process of excavation and so much more. And, oh yes a wild jeep ride into a desert, including a mile long camel ride without stirrups (once is enough for my 86 year old body!).

Regan Bonato had a wonderful trip to Ashland, Oregon with son Barry Schrag, daughter-in-law Dawn, and grandchildren Katarina and Kennan. She saw several plays over the long Labor Day weekend and checked off one item from her personal 'bucket list.'

Mike Balfe (son of Debi (Janzen) Balfe) has just moved back with his wife and two daughters this summer from the East Coast and will be living and working in Ritzville.

Miranda Filan (daughter of Jeanette Franz Filan and Damon Filan) continues to work for Environmental Assessment Services in Richland as an Environmental Analyst. Miranda spent six weeks this spring on the island of Mauritius doing volunteer marine research. Following her time in Mauritius, she traveled to South Africa to volunteer at the African Dawn Wildlife Sanctuary. She returned at the end of May.

The Janzen family gathered together to celebrate Terry's 83rd birthday on July 15th.

The children of Alvie and Blanche Schrag, Loren and Rosalie Schrag, Dick and Beth (Schrag) Stucky, Kay Schrag, and Tim and Roberta Schrag and their families held their annual family picnic at Lake Wenatchee in July.



# Menno Remembers...

## James L. "Jim" Stucky

Jim Stucky, our auctioneer for the Mennonite Country Auction for 34 years, passed away September 8, 2013. Jim donated a lamp for the 2013 MCA auction that he made out of walnut. The lamp was taken to Revival Lighting in Spokane and it has a new cord, new shade made out of mica minerals and new finial.

Jim was born in McPherson, Kansas on March 15, 1939, a son of Martha Lorene (Goering) and Carl T. Stucky.

Jim attended Santa Fe country schools and graduated from McPherson High School, in 1957. He then graduated from Bethel College, Newton, Kansas in 1961.

He was a member of First Mennonite Church McPherson, Kansas, where he served in many capacities through the years. Jim was a member of the writers guild and Toastmasters. He served as trustee for King City Township for several terms.

Jim taught school at Sunny Hill near Canton, Kansas, Hillcrest, near In-

man, Galva Middle School, Geneseo High School, and McPherson Middle School. He enjoyed coaching and working with children. Jim was a farmer for all of his life.

James L. Stucky was united in marriage to Frances "Fran" A. Penner on July 3, 1960 at the First Mennonite Church in Beatrice, Nebraska.

Surviving family members include his loving and devoted wife of over fifty-three years, Fran Stucky of the home; his children, Sheryl Dick, of McPherson, Kansas, Donna Sanborn and her husband Blake, of Bourbon, Missouri, and Mathew "Matt" Stucky and his wife Cindy, of Carthage, Mississippi; his siblings, Wanieta Penner and her husband Paul, of McPherson, Kansas; Ben Stucky and his wife Jan, of McPherson, Kansas and Diane Gering and her husband Warren, of Ritzville, Washington; his nine grandchildren, Elizabeth Burch and her husband Travis, Katherine Anderson and her husband Cameron, Lauren Byington and her husband Warren, Kaylen Tiefenbrunn and her

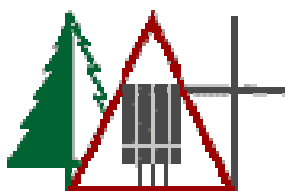
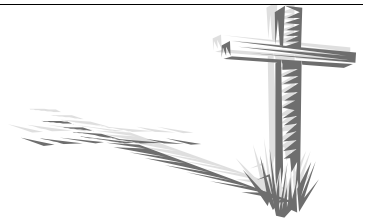
husband Matt, Rebecca Dick, Matthew Dick, Benjamin Dick, Daniel Dick, and Macie Stucky; his four great-grandchildren, Hattie Burch, Orry Byington, Ace Tiefenbrunn, and Asher Anderson; eighteen nieces and nephews, other relatives, students, and friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents.

The memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 13, 2013 at the First United Methodist Church, McPherson, Kansas with Pastor Kathy Neufeld Dunn officiating.

The final resting place is at the McPherson Cemetery, McPherson, Kansas.

Memorials are suggested to Omega Houses or M.C.C. or donors choice and they can be sent in care of the Glidden - Ediger Funeral Home; 222 West Euclid Street; McPherson, Kansas 67460.



Women, mark your calendars now for the annual WMF Women's Retreat at Camp CAMREC, October 18-20. The Seattle church will be hosting, with pastor Melanie Neufeld serving as our speaker, pastor and facilitator of contemplation and play. Our theme will focus on self-care, joy, praising God in the midst of uncertainty and difficulty. This is also prime leaf looking time in the beautiful Cascades. We hope to see you there.

The *Menno Beacon* is published at the whim of the editor and submissions to the *Beacon* are now accepted on a rolling basis. Publication will occur once the editor has received enough content. 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), Tina Shields, publisher, and Donna Hostick, editor. You can contact Donna at: 509-585-9214 or email at: [djhostick@charter.net](mailto:djhostick@charter.net).

The Menno Beacon now has a group page on Facebook; just search for "Menno Beacon" and request to join the group.

Menno Mennonite Church  
1378 N. Damon Rd.  
Ritzville, WA 99169

Non-profit organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 10  
Ritzville, WA

Address service  
requested

### Calendar of Events

**October**

- 1 noon Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
- 5 Mennonite Country Auction and Relief Sale
- 8 10am Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
- 10 9am-2pm Menno Women in Mission
- 18-20 Women's Retreat at Camp Camrec

**November**

- 5 noon Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
- 10 Harvest Festival
- 12 10am Ritzville Ministerial Association meets
- 14 9am-2pm Menno Women in Mission

**December**

- 3 noon Moses Lake Ministerial Association meets
- 12 9am-2pm Menno Women in Mission

