

# Menno-Life



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John Mackey, chair of the trustees, reports that our Capital Campaign dollars are at work. Dave Lee, Ed and John Kohli began working on the library entrance roof in mid-July. The plan is to remove the old flat roof and replace it with a pitched roof. The lintels that support the bricks above the openings are rusting and collecting moisture, which freezes in winter and heaves the bricks above the lintels. This has caused cracking and unstable, mortar joints. (Bob Suter photo)



## New fears

*George O'Reilly*

As my wife and I were driving to church last Sunday, she received a chat text from our Northern Ireland daughter. Our son-in-law is a technical climber, an instructor of mountaineering instructors actually, and their two daughters are quite the outdoor enthusiasts normally. In fact, at just about four years old, the older girl had her own YouTube video from climbing with a head cam up a considerable route, probably 100 meters, as her father belayed for her from above. She was quite talkative and admired the scenery and adapted to the challenges of the slope. Apparently, when they went out that other day for a climb, she was not cooperative. As my daughter put it, she just whimpered.

I reflected on this for a bit, and then it struck me. I said, "Children often live into new fears. Perhaps being too naïve when younger, or having had something else make them suddenly aware of some similar danger, they go from complete ease with something, to being fearful of something we once thought they had mastered." And later they will also grow themselves out of that once new fear.

Then I realized this has been quite a common experience for most adults as well. "We often live into new fears." We have been going along just fine in some area of our life and suddenly something causes us to discover a new fear. It can be change around us, or a headline which upsets us. It might be sensing someone might not come through for us, or even that God seems somehow unresponsive this time around. We live ourselves into a new fear. We were at ease, but are now afraid.

And actually I think this is just the way it should be. We need to truly "incarnate ourselves" into our own lives, to enter fully even the challenging aspects of our experience. And if we do this deeply we will at times be struck that we are "out of our depth." Somehow a familiar situation will draw from us unfamiliar anxiety. And of course our response could be whimpering and withdrawal. But that entails withdrawal from our lives. And such an attempt to "save our life" is more likely to cause us to "lose it."

Indeed, could we not say that the promises of Jesus and the Father to "never leave or forsake us" is focused mostly on the new fears into which we live? "I won't have enough." "I won't be at home." "I will be abandoned on my own."

It seems to me that the promise of Jesus is not to keep us from discovering new fears, but to incarnate his life into ours and to "help grow us out of those new fears, perhaps only by remaining in them with us." I see this so often in people I most admire. They turn from withdrawal and incarnate themselves deeply into the complexities of their own life. In so doing they at times "live into new fears." But they press on and eventually "grow themselves out of those once new fears."

Such people realize that Jesus could not join them "where they are not." Withdrawal from their own life would be withdrawal from the incarnational presence of Jesus in their life. So when their life causes them to "live into a new fear" they anticipate meeting Jesus there! And they "incarnate themselves deeply into their own life," and find the Savior incarnate right there with them.

I am pondering this still, but I am strongly drawn to this image, though I admit it may seem ethereal to some. So let me close simply by saying, "Live into new fears!" And may Christ incarnate meet you there!

### **Happy birthday to:**

Dorothy Houts, 94, Aug. 12

Richard Boehr, 85, Aug. 12

Robert Flick, 88, Aug. 14

Dorothy Hoffman, 95, Aug. 19

Neil Kehler, 84, Aug. 19

Eleanor Baumgardner, 92, Aug. 21

James Oberly, 95, Aug. 27

### **Happy anniversary to:**

Sam and Joan Diller, 57, Aug. 2

Don and Romaine Pannabecker, 58, Aug. 2

Treva and Bob Stratton, 63, Aug. 9

Dottie and Gene Long, 55, Aug. 13

Jo and Stan Clemens, 54, Aug. 19

### **Prayer requests**

Joan Diller and Ann Shumaker request congregational prayers for strength and peace for their brother, James Reusser. Jim was diagnosed June 1 with esophageal cancer and is now on hospice. As a Bluffton College student in the '50s, Jim regularly attended FMC. It was here he was spiritually nurtured and encouraged by the congregation and Pastor J.N. Smucker. Following his graduation

from AMBS, in 1950 his ordination service was held at FMC. He has served Mennonite congregations in Kidron, OH and Kitchener, ONT. In Jim's words, "FMC has always felt like my home church."

Ernie Porzelius had a gall bladder procedure at Blanchard Valley Hospital and is recuperating at home. He welcomes your prayers.

### **New addresses**

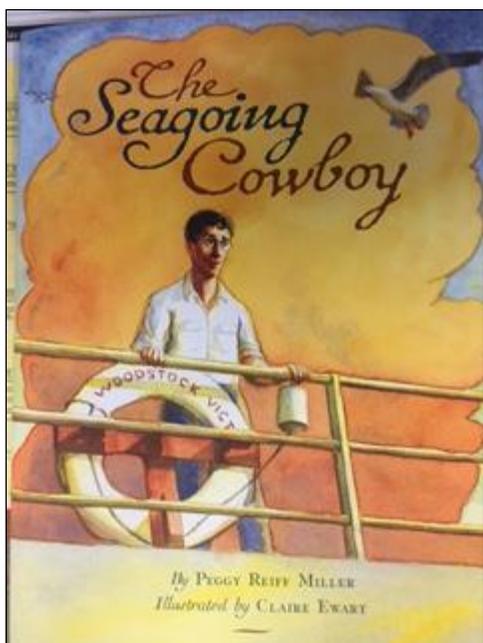
Joan Bauman has moved to Indianapolis. Her new address is MorningSide of College Park, 8810 Colby Blvd, Apt. 330, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Her daughter, Maureen Noe, says that she is doing very well and they are grateful for prayers.

Dorothy Houts is currently in Nevada with her son. Her address is 238 Edith Lane, Dayton, Nevada 89403. Her phone number is 775-241-2213.

### **Kitchen notes**

Thank you to all who responded to our need for plastic containers for leftovers in the church kitchen. We now have a sufficient supply so there is no need now for additional containers. When the supply is drained, we'll post another request.

### **Library receives new children's book about seagoing cowboys**



Thanks to Alice Ruth Ramseyer for her donation to the church library of children's book, *The Seagoing Cowboy* by Peggy Reiff Miller, illustrated by Claire Ewert, published by Brethren Press, 2016.

"Through Peggy Reiff Miller's prose and Claire Ewert's paintings, we learn the real-life story of seagoing cowboys who took livestock to people suffering the effects of World War II. Thousands of men signed up to serve people in need. They returned with a wider view of the world around them."  
For ages 4-8 (*Quote from the inside cover of the book.*)

From First Mennonite Church, Bob Flick and Bob Ramseyer were two of the seagoing cowboys. Although they went on different trips, both were on ships carrying horses to Danzig, Poland.

### **FIRST Night returning in September**

FIRST Night will return this fall with a few changes, while hopefully maintaining the spirit of the original gatherings. The committee is pleased to inform the congregation about the upcoming format.

The purpose of FIRST Night has always been to provide a midweek intergenerational gathering as part of the relationship-building ministry of FMC. It is an opportunity for us to hear about the lives of each other, sometimes those we may not otherwise know very well. This may occur through conversations around the table, or the program, where an individual or group shares about experiences serving the wider church, travels, hobbies, or some other topic of interest.

We will meet five Tuesdays during the next church year: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, and March 28. We plan to eat dinner at 6:00, with a 15-minute or so program to follow at 6:30. This

should allow people to attend other activities. Those attending should bring their own table service. This will cut down on waste, eliminate the need for table setters, and shorten clean up time.

There have been many ideas offered to simplify our meals and the efforts of volunteers. We may ask if Sunday school classes or other groups might bring desserts for a given meal. There may be a soup night, where people would sign up to bring soup, salad, bread, cheese, fruit, with no cooking in the kitchen (There are logistical issues for this option that would need to be resolved.). We might purchase some pre-cooked food from GFS for two meals, lasagna and sandwiches using their BBQ chicken and pork. And we hope to continue some previous favorites like the ham loaf and baked potato meals. If anyone has questions, please contact Susie Gratz, chair.

## **Music ensemble rehearsal schedules announced**

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin: Note the dates, times, locations and ages for the church's music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 7-8 p.m., sanctuary (Mark Suderman, director)
- Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, assembly room (Ray Raeburn, director)
- Cherub Choir (ages 3-grade 1) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6-6:30 p.m., children's choir room. (Laura Hartzler, director) *Parents of 3-year-olds are encouraged to come to the first few rehearsals.*
- Jubilate (Grades 2 - 5) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6:45-7:30 p.m., children's choir room (Laura Hartzler, director)
- Youth choir (6th grade and up) will begin on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 8:30-9:15 a.m., children's choir room (Laura Hartzler, director)

## **School kits still needed**

Let's stretch ourselves in filling a large number of kits this year! Please limit your generosity to the following items for each kit:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x 10 ½ in. and 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12 in.)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. (Heavier fabric is ideal for school kits.) Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of the fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. (If making your own bags, please note that the bag size has changed over the years and fabric is cut 12 ½ x 38 in.)

If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

-- Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

## **Youth spend week with SWAP**

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and that school will be starting up before we know it. The youth have been working hard this past month as they served neighbors in Kentucky and serving the church by cleaning their own youth rooms.

Both youth groups learned what it means to take ownership of their spaces in the church building. We learned that we can serve and respect ourselves and those around us by taking care of our respective rooms.

The SHYF served with SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People) from June 27-July 2. We were a little nervous but excited about the new culture we would be experiencing in Harlan, KY.



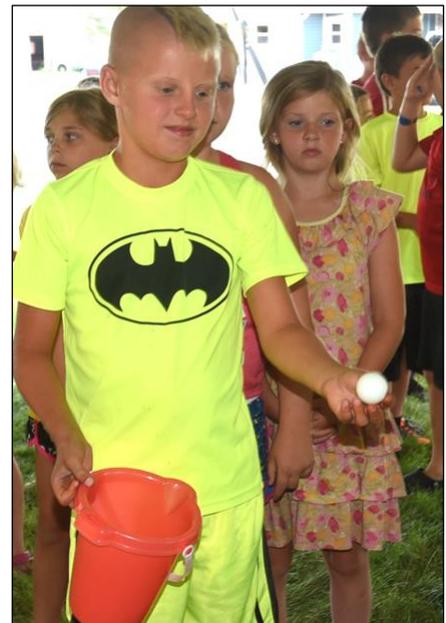
Along with two other churches, we took on jobs in the community to keep residents' homes safe, warm, and dry. Some of those jobs included putting on new roofs, installing windows, and putting up siding.

The youth also worked at Christ's Hands Soup Kitchen (see photo below) in Harlan.

Overall, we had a great week! We were challenged in many ways, had the experience of tasting a new culture and learned that moon pies go with RC Cola like peanut butter goes with jelly! -- Shannon Thiebeau  
(Shannon Thiebeau photo)

### Bluffton community vacation Bible school 2016

More than 100 children attended the community VBS July 24-28 at Emmanuel United Church of Christ. Children enjoyed various activities with the theme of Deep Sea Discovery. Thanks to all who helped with VBS.



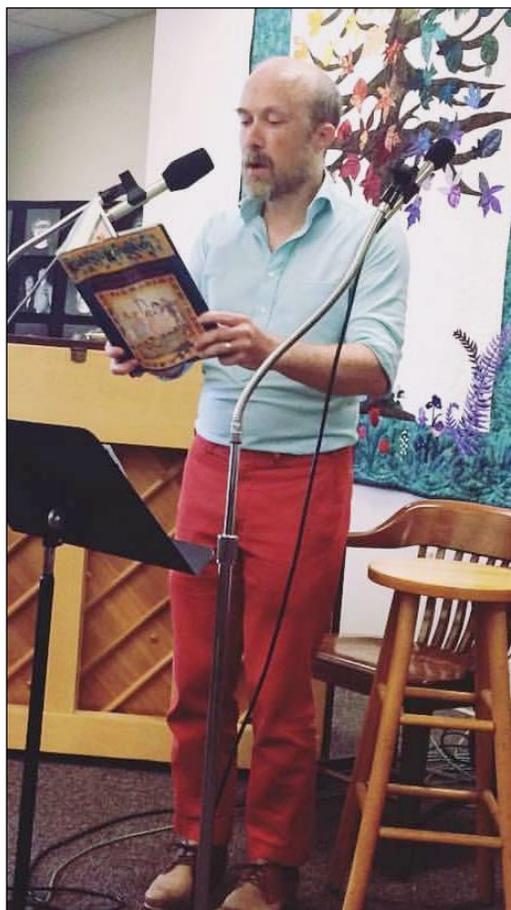
**Top left photo: Ethan Nickel and Benjamin Hartzler.**

**Top right photo: Xavier Diller and Ellie Hartzler.**

**Bottom left photo: Ethan Blount (in yellow shirt)**

**(Fred Steiner photos)**

## BlauRock Café features music, stories, poetry and food



Top left, Brandon Rhodes  
Center, Halle Steingass  
Bottom, Goshen trio

*(Wendy Chappell-Dick photos)*

