

Patty's Ponderings

Christian healing is a process that involves the totality of our being - body, mind, emotion, spirit and our social context--and that directs us toward becoming the person God is calling us to be at every stage of our living and our dying. Whenever we are truly open to God, some kind of healing takes place, because God yearns to bring us to wholeness. Through prayer and the laying on of hands, through confession, anointing, the sacraments, and other means of grace, Jesus meets us in our brokenness and pain and there loves, transforms, forgives, redeems, resurrects and heals. Jesus does this in God's way, in God's time, according to God's loving purpose for each person. Because the Holy Spirit is continually at work in each of us, pushing us toward wholeness, the process of healing is like removing sticks and leaves from a stream until the water runs clear. If we simply get out of the way of the Lord's work in us, we can trust that we are being led to the particular kind of wholeness God wills for us. Very often the results of our healing are increased faith in God and a new empowerment to love and serve others. Frequently we find that the very thing that caused our greatest brokenness becomes transformed into our unique giftedness.

-Stretch Out Your Hand, UC Press, 1990

The healing stories of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark have led our worship these past weeks of February and through March. We began with prayers for healing through communion, continued through Ash Wednesday reconciliation service and will end with an anointing service on Palm Sunday. Jesus is the Healer of our every ill. As so many have said, "I don't know what I would do without him."

Patty

Patty's Picks

The Hundred Foot Journey DVD - is a powerful healing foodie movie that is sermon material...

The Grand Seduction DVD is about the efforts of a Newfoundland village to entice a doctor to stay - the challenge of every small town. Clever and hilarious. (More Patty's Picks on inside back cover)

More of Patty's Picks:

The Newsroom Season 2 DVD is almost too fast paced for me to keep up, but when I get it, it is also clever and hilarious.

Immortal Diamond by Richard Rohr was another classical spiritual/psychological help by this amazing priest.

Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancey reminds us why the church struggles these days with Yancey's powerful storytelling.

Fully Alive by Timothy Shriver is a fresh read on the Kennedy family, faith and the Special Olympics.

Humour ~ The Isaac Section

"Now, how many of you would like to go to heaven?" asked the Sunday school teacher.

All the eager four-year-olds raised their hands except Tommy.

"I can't," he said. "My mother told me I have to come right home after Sunday school."

EGGSACTLY

Shopper: "Don't you think these eggs are rather small?"

Storekeeper: "Yes, I do. That's the trouble with farmers these days.

They're so anxious to sell their eggs they take them out of the nests way too soon!"

Patience is the ability to let your light shine after your fuse has blown.

-submitted by Loretta

Knowing that the minister was very fond of cherry brandy, one of the church elders offered to present him with a bottle on one consideration; that the pastor acknowledge receipt of the gift in the church paper. "Gladly," responded the pastor.

When the church magazine came out a few days later, the elder turned at once to the "Appreciation" column. There he read: "The minister extends his thanks to Elder Brown for his gift of fruit and for the spirit in which it was given."

-submitted by Adeline (compliments of Coffee Perks)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Canadian Mennonite University** cmu.ca
Outatown Discipleship Program Campus Visit Day | March 13, 2015 | 8:45 AM - 3:00 PM Sign up at www.cmu.ca/campusvisit to attend a one day Outatown experience. You will discover community, teaching, adventure, and service – all in the space of SIX HOURS! Sign up today – space is limited!

***RJC GUYS & PIES Fundraiser and Dessert Auction** - Sunday, March 22, 7:00 pm at RJC. Join us for an evening of superb music and delicious desserts, featuring A Buncha Guys (an all-male choir from Saskatoon directed by Russ Regier), and the RJC Man Choir directed by Richard Janzen. Included in the evening will be a **dessert auction** with decorated and calorie-filled desserts up for bid (bid individually, as a table, family or consortium). Funds raised will go toward RJC program projects. Coffee, tea and pie will be served during the evening. Everyone is welcome!



***Mennonite World Conference's Assembly** will be held July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA and we need YOUR ideas! Do you know musicians who could serve on worship teams or perform in the Global Church Village? Share your ideas by emailing pennsylvania2015@mwc-cmm.org.

***Did you know that Mennonite World Conference has a prayer network?** You can sign up for monthly messages with meditations, stories, information about Pennsylvania 2015, and prayer requests. Join us in walking mindfully together in prayer, as we prepare to gather for the next MWC assembly. More info at mwc-cmm.org/pa2015prayernetwork.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Sunday, March 1st** - Folks interested in **church membership /associate membership**, please join the deacons for a time of faith sharing on **at 11:00 a.m. in the pastor's office**.

***YOUTH: Friday, March 6th** – Not your ordinary “Gym Night” at RJC. Meet at the church at 6:30pm to leave for RJC.

***Osler Winter Carnival Food Booth: Sat. Mar. 7** at Community Hall - **please sign up** to sell hot dogs and junk food for an hour at the Hall on Sat. Mar 7, 10 am- 4 pm slots. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. *Want to join the OMC Shiny Team? Talk to Steve Guenther.*

***Visioning Wrap-Up: Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 pm** at the church to receive the visioning report as a congregation. **All are invited** to this time of listening, and possibly asking questions of clarification.

***Sunday, March 8**, Jerry Buhler is willing to give a sermon fitting with the work we're doing that weekend. We would then move into a **Potluck, followed by an afternoon of congregational discussion** led by Jerry, that would give some direction to our next steps. Please plan to come.

*Delegates are needed for the **MC Sask 2015 Annual Delegate Sessions** (ADS) being held on March 13 & 14 at Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon. **Please speak to Christy** if you are interested in representing OMC as a delegate. (Registration forms on the bulletin board, or go to www.mcsask.ca to register online.) **A few copies of the Report Booklets are available in the office** and the reports are also available online. There is also **ADS for Youth**, a two day overnight Urban Camping event at Mount Royal Mennonite. See the bulletin board for more information.

Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

March 1, 2015—Lent 2

I will make you exceedingly fruitful

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (6), Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38 or Mark
9:2-9

March 8, 2015—Lent 3

Making wise the simple

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19 (7)
1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

March 15, 2015—Lent 4

The light has come into the world

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21 (19)

March 22, 2015—Lent 5

I treasure your word in my heart

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12
or Psalm 119:9-16 (11)
Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

March 29, 2015—Lent 6 (Liturgy of the Passion)

Hosanna in the highest heaven

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47
or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)
—or—

Liturgy of the Palms

(no first or second reading)

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11 (10)
or John 12:12-16

Mark your Calendars - April events at OMC

***Report on Ukraine: April 8, 2015, 7:30 pm,** Osler Mennonite Church. Lucy Romanenkova, Zaporizhzhye, Ukraine retired professor of Social Work and Psychology at the Zaporizhzhye National University. Otto and Florence Driedger have collaborated with her over 20 years, teaching and assisting her as she has taken the lead in developing the Centre. She is the Director of the Family Service and Community Education Centre "Florence Centre". Lucy will provide a short Power point on the services this community agency is providing which has been developing its program and services over the last 10 years in collaboration with MCC, Communitas community services(Abbotsford) and Mennonite Benevolent Services(Winnipeg), and other groups from Germany and Canada.

***John Bueckert's 100th Birthday Party Faspa** will be held Sunday, **April 12,** 2:00-4:00 p.m. OMC Fellowship Hall.

***Canadian Mennonite University Singers:** Tuesday, **April 28,** 7:00 pm at Osler Mennonite Church.

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God - the rest will be given.

—Mother Teresa

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Save the Date: MCC Saskatchewan** has invited **Dr. Shomali, an Iranian Shi'a cleric** to come to our province from March 5-8, 2015. This is part of the Mennonite-Shi'a dialogues which have been ongoing for several years. Dr. Harry Huebner will accompany our visitor as he travels to Saskatchewan. **You are invited to save the date of Friday, March 6 in the afternoon for a lecture and conversation with our Iranian visitor.** See the bulletin board or contact Mennonite Central Committee for more information.

***March 6 & 7 at Bethany Manor: Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan History Program & AGM.** *Friday, March 6, 7:30pm:* Guest speaker: Dr. John Friesen on Mennonites arrival in Manitoba in 1874. *Saturday, March 7,* starting 9:30am – AGM, followed by speakers. See the Bulletin board poster for details or MHSS website: <http://mhss.sk.ca/events/index.shtml>

***The Youth Farm Bible Camp's 20th annual Vereniki Supper** will be held on Tuesday, **March 10th** from 5-7pm at the Rosthern Mennonite Church. Admission is by donation and all funds raised will go toward the ministry of YFBC.

***MCC Connects: Uprooted-** a 3-week learning tour in May 2015 for young adults ages 18-25. **Application deadline March 16.** Travel as a team along the Northern & Southern borders of Mexico to learn about migration and peacebuilding. Sign up today! Find more details at mccsk.ca/uprooted or call Myriam Ullah at 306.665.2555

***The Rosthern Mennonite Nursing Home Board** invites you to a supper and information evening to learn about our Personal Care Home and our plans for fundraising. The event will take place on Friday **March 20, 2015** at 6:30 PM at The Rosthern Mennonite Church. We are very excited to share this news with the community. There is no charge for the supper but we do need to know how much food to prepare. Please RSVP by **March 16, 2015** to Tarri at 306-232-4861 or e-mail at Tarri.Ostapak@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Heart to Heart, Monday, March. 16, 7:00 p.m. Bridal Shower and Sharing with Kaytee Edwards** (marrying Chris Buhler on August 9th). All OMC women welcome and if you have married into the Osler community, you will be invited to share your experiences with Kaytee.

***Special Music volunteers** - please sign-up on the bulletin board to sing a song, play a song for a worship service; children especially!

***Tuesday, March 10, 7:00pm: "Do Art" All Grades 5 – 9 students** are invited to come and make art. Everything is provided and there is no cost. Come, bring a friend, if you like and have fun!

***Winter Walkers:** OMC gym will be open for walking Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9:00 a.m.

*MC Sask is looking for Youth to be part of their **VBS Troupe**. See the Troupe Member Application form on the bulletin board for more information, if this opportunity for summer 2015 is calling you.

***Footprints for ADS:** The path from sin to the cross, or in our case, foyer to sanctuary, can only be made if many people and their footprints come together. To aid with a visual for the 2015 ADS, you are asked to trace your foot, sign it, cut it out and we will have it delivered to the MC Sask office for the Annual Delegate Sessions. **All are invited to participate. Please see the table in the foyer for materials to share your footprints.**



Reflections on our Singing Faith – January 25, 2015
NPMC Saskatune Singers at Osler Mennonite Church,

So often, when church leaders construct a written expression of what church members are to believe in, the ideas are labelled as articles of faith. Here then, are the articles of my “singing faith”.

Article #1: Music is a gift from God. It is given in variations and degrees to different people. Yet, no matter what musical abilities we possess and develop, they are a part of how God created us as individuals.

From this comes my second article: because music is a gift from God, all music then has a quality of sacredness. Instrumental music, with no lyrics to guide my thoughts, can easily lead me through various images of God and the creation around us, even if that wasn't the composer's original intention. Vocal "sacred" music, has an obvious value in the expression of our faith.

It is not as easy to include secular songs under the umbrella of sacredness. The use of certain lyrics can turn a song into something that has no connection at all with my faith. However, I find more often than not, a song that is typically branded as “secular”, speaks very well to my relationship with God. Such is the song, “Lean on Me”. The American songwriter Bill Withers wrote this song, based on his childhood experiences growing up in a West Virginia coal mining town. As you would expect, single-resource communities can go through a severe boom and bust cycle; Bill’s home town was no exception. But he also saw first-hand how people rallied in support of others who were really struggling with obtaining the necessities of life, because everyone knew that they too, sooner or later, would themselves require help.

Several years ago, I was asked to provide some music at a Mennonite Disaster Service gathering in Warman. I chose to sing this song, and include the preceding background information, feeling that it spoke well to the ideals of MDS. Afterwards, I was in conversation with an attendee. He started by saying that he would never have considered that a “secular” song would have any place in a church-related function, but that after hearing the song and its background, he saw how well it did speak to his faith and to what MDS is all about.

May we all experience the meaning of community expressed in this music.

Lynn

The poem is by Martha Courtot

crossing a creek
requires three things:
a certain serenity of mind
bare feet
and a sure trust
that the snake we know
slides silently
underwater
just beyond our vision
will choose to ignore
the flesh
that cuts through
its territory
and we WILL pass through
some people think crossing a creek
is easy
but i say this—
all crossings are hard
whether creeks, mountains
or into other lives

and we must always believe
in the snakes at our feet
just out of our vision
and we must practice believing
we WILL come through



Osler Mennonite Church
A Welcoming Christian Community for Peace