



# First Mennonite Church

The monthly newsletter of First Mennonite  
Church, Beatrice, Nebraska.

January 2010

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### December in review

#### Attendance/Offering

12/6 102/\$ 5131 FMC  
12/13 140/\$ 3025.10 Habitat  
12/20 146/\$ 4459 FMC  
12/27 81/\$ 1437 AMBS

### Visitors

12/20  
Jim & Bonna Casey, Lincoln, NE  
Linda Young, Florida  
Courtenay Kruesmark, WI

12/27  
Renetta, Joshua, & Kendra  
Gooden, Wichita, KS  
Jerald, Eileen & Sharon Stucky,  
Buhler & N Newton, KS

**New address!** Nicole Reimer,  
3523 Shoshone, Denver, CO  
80211

**New Email!** Dorothy  
Zimmerman:  
dzimm03@live.com,  
Gail Cross:  
gscross1959@live.com

### MMN Prayer Requests

**January 3** - Pray that Mennonite Mission Network personnel may begin this year with renewed openness to the movement of Jesus' spirit that brings healing and hope to the world.

**January 10** - MMN workers are training 30 church planters in South Asia this month to effectively use business to multiply congregations in areas of persecution and extreme poverty. Pray for the safety of these leaders and for Christ's shalom in their family lives.

**January 17** - Pray that radio listeners and Web site visitors who find Third Way Media's *Shaping Families* program may find insight for the challenges they face in their own lives.

**January 24** - Connie Byler, in Spain, has a goal of visiting and sharing the good news of Jesus with at least one person every day. Pray that God may guide her to people with open hearts and give her words that connect with the need of each person.

**January 31** - Toba Christians struggle to remain true to God's call in the face of increasing material prosperity. Pray for these sisters and brothers and for Gretchen and Keith Kingsley and Richard and Ruth Anne Friesen as they walk alongside indigenous churches in the Argentine Chaco.

### WDC Prayer Requests

**Jan. 3** - Pray for the WDC Conference Minister search committee as it discerns new leadership for our area conference.

**Jan. 10** - Pray for the WDC Executive Board as it meets for a day of retreat-prayer, planning and goal-setting on Jan. 16th. Pray for David Wiens as he is installed today at Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, OK.

**Jan. 17** - Pray for the meeting of the WDC Texas pastors in Dallas on 1/23.

**Jan. 24** - Pray for our global community as we welcome new immigrants in our communities. How do we express our hospitality?

**Jan. 31** - This Sunday is the final day of WDC's fiscal year. Thank God for the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure which have been offered in the name of our common mission to "witness, dwell and connect to God's mission in the world".

**A “timeless” message about war and peace - An Interview with Theron F. Schlabach, Author of War, Peace, and Social Conscience: The Life and Thought of Guy F. Hershberger - By John Longhurst**

*(Schlabach, formerly a professor of history at Goshen College, took time to reflect on the important role Hershberger played in the Mennonite church in the last century.)*

WATERLOO, Ont. and SCOTTDALÉ, Pa. -- John Howard Yoder is one of the best-known Mennonite thinkers on peace. But before Yoder there was Guy F. Hershberger, whose reflections on war, peace and violence not only helped Mennonites navigate perilous times in the early-to-mid 20th century, but also laid the foundation for Yoder's groundbreaking work.

“Up until the arrival of Yoder, Hershberger was the most important figure in the Mennonite Church for translating pacifism into practical life,” says Theron F. Schlabach, author of *War, Peace, and Social Conscience: The Life and Thought of Guy F. Hershberger*, a new book from Herald Press

Among other contributions, Hershberger, who lived from 1896-1989, helped lay the foundation for what became the Alternative Service Program in the U.S. during World War II. He played a key role in the creation of Mennonite Mutual Aid in 1945 and helped guide the Mennonite Church's response to the civil rights movement— nudging the church toward greater openness to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call for justice for blacks.

Schlabach, formerly a professor of history at Goshen College, took time to reflect on the important role Hershberger played in the Mennonite church in the last century—and why Mennonites and other Christians today should want to know more about him.

**Why was Guy F. Hershberger such an important figure?**

**Schlabach:** He came along at a hinge point in Mennonite history in the United States. It was a time when Mennonites were beginning to engage the world more, become more educated and more urban. Mennonites were also becoming more aware of the wider world and their role in it. He helped that generation to articulate their faith and beliefs and to see how they could practice them in the world.

But he wasn't just important for the Mennonite Church. He had influence in other Mennonite groups and in other Christian denominations, too. Many people benefited from his thinking on a Christian response to issues like war, labor relations, economic justice, racial equality and capital punishment.

**What was the special contribution Hershberger made to the church?**

**Schlabach:** He offered Christians a biblically-based rationale for pacifism, in contrast to pacifist approaches that were grounded in other rationales, such as socialism, humanitarianism or activism. He believed that Christians should actively seek peace in order to help people in need, but he felt strongly that our pacifism should be grounded in the Bible and in our desire to be disciples of Jesus.

**What is the connection between Hershberger and John Howard Yoder?**



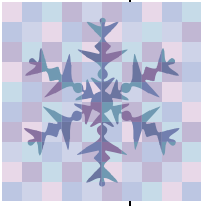
**Schlabach:** Personally, I find it hard to imagine John Howard Yoder without Guy F. Hershberger. Yoder took what Hershberger started and expanded on it in even more scholarly and sophisticated ways. He put it into terms that modern scholars and intellectuals could appreciate at another level.

**How did Hershberger view Yoder's success?**

Hershberger never felt slighted by how well Yoder did. He was delighted with Yoder's achievements. He studied and supported Yoder and celebrated his success.

**Why should Mennonites and other Christians who are committed to peacemaking be interested in Hershberger today?**

**Schlabach:** The world we live in is not so dissimilar to his. Like him, we have war, chaos and uncertainty today. Like us, Hershberger had to wrestle with those issues. His thinking on how we can live out our faith and commitment to peace can be of great help today, particularly when some wonder if a degree of force is necessary to achieve peace. At the same time, his message of keeping our pacifism closely connected to our relationship with Jesus is timeless. His life and thought reminds us that we don't seek peace on humanitarian grounds alone. Rather, it grows out of our belief in the Bible and our being Christians. It is an integral part of how we live as regenerated people in the world today.

First Mennonite Church - January 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Stephanie McAlister	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		1:30pm WMS Emily Funk, Jarrod Reimer, Dianne Peppard	Amber Goossen	Barb Thimm	Doris Claassen	James R. Wiebe
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am Baptism, Communion  Jan Reimer		1:30pm WMS	7pm Annual Meeting	John Regier	Martha Goossen, Desiree Younger Chaffee	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Ron Janzen, Natalia Jantzen	Deborah Younger, Amy O'Dell	1:30pm WMS 7pm Church Board	MacKenzie Riesen	Benjamin Penner		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Newsletter Deadline!	1:30pm WMS John Thimm Jr., Don Esau	Ann Kerl	Elsie Penner	Mary Lovci	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nolan Fast		1:30pm WMS				

# Around the Church...

2010									
Month	Date	Offering	Pastor	Greeters	Hosts	Audio	Video	Power Point	Music
January	3	FMC General Fund	Weldon Schloneger	Bill & Barb Esau	Elsie Riesen & Betty Esau	Larry Thimm	John Thimm	Halley Keeney	
January	10	WDC	Weldon Schloneger	Bill & Barb Esau	Louie & Ellen Esau	LeRoy Janzen	Wendy Kyser	Austin Goossen	
January	17	FMC General Fund	Weldon Schloneger	Bill & Barb Esau	Bob & Barb Esau	LeRoy Janzen	Bill Thimm	Sean Coy	
January	24	MMN	Weldon Schloneger	Bill & Barb Esau		Doug Casey	Bryan Funk	Alex Goosen	
January	31	FMC General Fund	Weldon Schloneger	Bill & Barb Esau		Doug Casey	Jane Esau	Isaiah Friesen	

I want to thank my Shepherd Group and all those who helped me move from the Homestead Village to the Kensington. I so appreciate your help and support. It is a great comfort to me to belong to such a caring church community. I ask for your continued prayers as I adjust to my new home. Love, Virginia Hull

I would like to say Thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and food during and after my surgery. Also thank you to Delores Jantzen, Kathy Thimm, and Kathy Casey for teaching my Sunday school class during my absence. It is a wonderful blessing to belong to such a caring church family. Thanks again for all your thoughtfulness. Doreen Janzen.

***Thank you for prayers, hospital visits, food and cards after my recent fall. It was greatly appreciated. Lynn Gerber***

WOW! The Missions, Peace and Service Council Windsor Loin Fundraiser collected \$6,235 for the Day Care building project in Bolivia! Windsor Loins totaled 650! A BIG Thanks to Dick Penner and all who helped make this event so successful!

Congratulations to Jay Reimer! He graduated from K-State last Saturday, December 12, 2009 with a degree in Engineering. Jay plans to continue his education and pursue a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering.

Laura Franz will begin serving the congregation as the Transportation Coordinator. If you are willing to drive when needed, please speak to Laura. Thank you.

The joint BMC/FMC baptism service on January 10 will begin at **9:30 a.m.** at First Mennonite Church. This is the normal worship time for BMC but a change for FMC. The service will be longer than usual because it will include communion as well as the baptisms.

Prayer Vine pg 1

Prayer Vine pg 2



MEA Prayers – pg 2

## **New Mennonite radio program launches Jan. 2** - Thursday, December 03, 2009

HARRISONBURG, Va. (Mennonite Mission Network) – [Shaping Families](#), a new 15-minute weekly radio program will launch January 2, 2010, on at least one set of stations in eastern Pennsylvania, and tentatively also on stations in California, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia.

The main focus of the program will be in-depth interviews with persons sharing their stories of grief, mental illness, difficulty over tough parenting issues, surviving the suicide of a loved one, serving others, strength in community, poverty, disaster, divorce, aging, and more.

The first program, “Losing My Son,” features an interview with Barbara Borntrager, author of *A Mother Held Hostage*, about her son Jon’s difficult journey and too-early death.

Burton Buller, director of [Third Way Media](#) for Mennonite Mission Network will host the program. Previously he served as host of *Connecting Point*, a radio program produced by [Family Life Network](#) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he also worked as director.

The inaugural stations are both in the eastern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey area: [WBYN-AM 1160](#) at 10 a.m. Saturdays and [WCHR-AM 920](#) at 3:30 p.m. Saturdays.

In addition to interviews, weekly “My Turn” three-minute segments in *Shaping Families* will feature the following commentators:

- [Natalie Francisco](#), co-pastor at Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va.
- [Steve Carpenter](#), conference coordinator for Virginia Mennonite Conference and film and media reviewer for *Third Way Café* Web site.
- [Harvey Yoder](#), licensed professional counselor at Family Life Resource Center, former pastor, and host of “Centerpiece” radio program on three stations.
- [Rebecca Thatcher Murcia](#) of Akron, Pa. author of 14 historical, biographical, sports, and scientific books for children and young adults.
- Sam Heatwole, a freelance voice talent in the Richmond, Va. area who excerpts James G. T. Fairfield’s newest book, *Frog Hollow Journal*.
- [Emily Ralph](#), worship leader for Swamp Mennonite Church, Quakertown, Pa. and a former radio announcer.

Melodie Davis is the program’s producer and co-host. Davis has been a producer/writer for Third Way Media for the past 34 years. She also writes the syndicated newspaper column, [Another Way](#) and *Heart and Soul* (in [Mennonite Weekly Review](#)).

“The purpose of the new program is to reach a broader and more consistent audience who we hope will become supporters of the program and its outreach,” notes Buller. “Our mission is to impact and entertain weekend radio listeners with insights to deal with family, personal and spiritual conflicts and dilemmas from a Christian perspective.”

*Shaping Families* marks the first entry back into radio on a regular basis with a program broadly representing the Mennonite churches through Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church USA. [The Mennonite Hour](#) inspirational program went off the air in 1979. The *Your*

Time radio program with Margaret Foth, a Mennonite daily radio program geared to women went off the air in 1987. *The Calvary Hour*, the longstanding and oldest Mennonite radio program (independent) with Bill and Bob Detweiler, went off the air December 2007.

“I began hearing encouragement to get back into radio almost from my first day on the job for (then) Mennonite Media,” said Buller. “In contacts with radio stations and across the church, various persons asked for a Mennonite voice on radio and particularly a voice focusing on family issues and Mennonite perspectives.”

Buller also noted, “We have many shelves full of tapes of very moving interviews from the documentaries produced in the last nine years” to draw from for the initial programs. The documentaries were only able to use the tip of the iceberg of material.

“We are pleased to be able to share these stories with wider audiences in a more in-depth way,” Buller continued. “This is getting additional mileage out of projects and dollars already invested in mission. We hope *Shaping Families* will build stronger families, congregations and, very broadly, community,” he adds.

Beginning in January, [ShapingFamilies.com](http://ShapingFamilies.com) will feature host and program blogs, monthly podcast subscriptions, giveaways and promotional items, links to books, DVDs and other resources mentioned, and podcasts of each program. The podcasts (downloadable from iTunes) will feature the full 14:30 minute program as aired on radio stations.

An initial production and distribution grant of \$35,000 from [Odyssey Networks](http://Odyssey Networks) has provided start-up funding but sponsors need to be found in most areas where the program will air. In some cases, radio stations will air the program as a public service on a free time basis.

Buller said churches can extend their reach into their own communities by purchasing airtime on local stations. Churches may wish to partner with other local churches to cover airtime, which can run between \$25-100 per week, depending on the size of the community and station.

“For business owners, sponsorship of this program associates their businesses with a deep concern for the state of the family,” says Buller. “We are searching for a national sponsor that we would recognize on air, and also on our Web sites. We feel there are great advantages for both churches and businesses to become associated with this program.”

Third Way Media program manager, Sheri Hartzler, is actively looking for additional leads for stations, sponsors and churches. For more information, call 800-999-3534 or email [info@ShapingFamilies.com](mailto:info@ShapingFamilies.com).