



July 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings



A sense of “rightness”

Mary E. Klassen, administrative secretary

Three years ago on July 1, I walked into the church office, overcoming the urge to greet Charles Geiser, then pastor, with “Good morning, boss.” I was starting a new job after 23 years of work in a very different organization and role.

Last week, on a morning when I received news that someone dear to us had died, I got up from my office chair and walked into the sanctuary. I wanted to focus on the news and not immediately go back to my routine work. I wanted to pray for the family and to feel myself in God’s presence. I walked the aisles, rested my eyes in the semi-darkness, saw again the pictures on the worship table of children hugging.

I became aware of an overwhelming sense of gratefulness. “How could I be so lucky?” I asked myself. “How can it be possible that I have this job, filled with so many opportunities to give the best of what I have, surrounded by people I care about so deeply and set in a place of worship?”

I admit that more often I’m aware of my mistakes (which are many) and sometimes I’m even more aware of what I don’t know that I should or what I don’t do well enough. On that Monday morning the sense of “rightness” was a gift.

The moment came just a few days after the Central District Conference Annual Meeting in Goshen. We explored the Acts 16 story of Paul, Silas and Timothy trying to discern where God was calling them. After experiencing several barriers on their journey, Paul had a vision of someone calling them to Macedonia. There they found God’s Spirit already at work, preparing people for the message of Jesus’ salvation. When Lydia and her family requested baptism, Paul, Silas and Timothy experienced a “yes” from God that followed all the times they had heard a “no.”

One of the preachers at the CDC gathering, Jonathan Larson, reflected on this story and how God tells us—as the Spirit told Jesus at his baptism—“You are my beloved. In you I am well pleased.” I think that was what I was hearing as I walked through the sanctuary that morning.

What I pray for is that each of us has a similar sense of “rightness” where we are. May we know that God is saying, “Yes” to who we are and what we do. May we hear the echo of the Spirit from our own baptism: “You are my beloved, and in you I am well pleased.”

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800 E Hively Avenue
Elkhart, Indiana 46517
574.294.3423

www.hivelymennonite.org

Doris Devadoss shares some of her life story

Doris Devadoss told of a lifetime of ministry as she shared during the Christian education hour on Sunday, June 24. Tim Stair and Louise Claassen prompted her with questions that helped us learn about her life in India and experiences also in the US, Canada and Viet Nam.

Doris grew up in Calcutta in a family of seven children. She attended a Baptist church as a child. After her older sister



Doris Devadoss, who has attended Hively regularly for several years, was interviewed about her life story by Louise Claassen and Tim Stair during a recent Sunday School session.

started working for MCC and attending a Mennonite affiliated church, Doris decided to attend as well. She worked for Mennonite Central Committee as a stenographer and, as a young adult, Doris travelled abroad for the Visiter Exchange Program (VE) and lived in Newton, Kan., for a year.

After she returned to India, Doris learned to know Dev, her husband, who was also working at MCC and attending the same church. He got her mother's

permission to take her to church events and then to marry her. Early in their marriage they served in Viet Nam with MCC. Her work there was to organize meals for all the MCCers; Dev was a lab technician at the Christian hospital. They were attending a conference in Saigon when they heard that North Viet Nam was attacking South Viet Nam and they needed to leave immediately. They got on an orphanage plane to the US, and Doris helped to care for the babies on the trip. Because their MCC term was not yet completed, they worked in Newton at the MCC center for several months.

Following that, Doris's husband studied at Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg, MB. Doris said she did not take courses, but read all of her husband's notes and typed his papers, so she got the same education he did. After that, they moved to New Jersey where both of them attended the Overseas Ministries Study Center for a year. On their return to India, they settled in Hyderabad, where her husband was a pastor of an English-speaking Mennonite church for eight years.

Her husband had a dream of building an English school in the rural area where he grew up. They were able to build two schools, each serving several hundred students, some of whom were boarding students. Doris helped to manage the school and was involved in teaching and taking care of children in an orphanage attached to the school.

Doris's husband died several years ago and Doris is now living with Esther Maddimadugu, her daughter, and Brent Graber, her son-in-law, in Elkhart. She also has spent time with her other daughter, Jessica, who lives in British Columbia. Earlier this year, her son accompanied her to India, so she could visit family and friends. 🍃



My Coins Count: Only 10 Sundays to go

Our goal for My Coins Count is \$1,500. Currently the flower on the foyer bulletin board shows we have \$150. In ten Sundays we need to multiply that by 10!

My Coins Count is an effort of the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (Sept 21-22) that raises money to help provide clean water around the world. To read stories of how MCC is helping to transform communities, visit mcc.org/stories/more/water

Bring your coins each Sunday and drop them in the labeled flower pot. Also consider matching what is given on any Sunday ... or several Sundays ... or through the whole collection season.

Hively library feature Uplifting reading for the summer

These and more books of encouragement and inspiration are featured in the hallway book rack.

The Virtues of Aging

Jimmy Carter

Wise and personal meditations on the experiences that come with aging.

Chasing joy: Musings on life in a bittersweet world

Edward Hays

Explores the value of living a joyful life in a not-always joyful world.

You Gotta Keep Dancin'

Tim Hansel

Challenges readers to understand the dignity of what can happen in living with pain

Circles of Sisterhood: A history of mission, service and fellowship in Mennonite Women's organizations

Anita Hooley Yoder

The North End Lives: A journey through poverty terrain

Hugo Neufeld

Stories that inspire us to consider what it means to bring good news to the poor

Gathering at the Hearth: Stories Mennonites tell

John E. Sharp

Narratives that have molded and nurtured Mennonites, revealing core values

The Gift of Peace

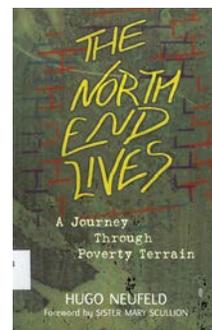
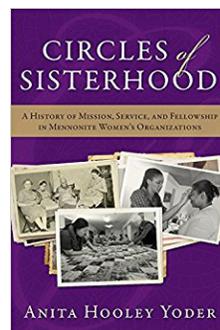
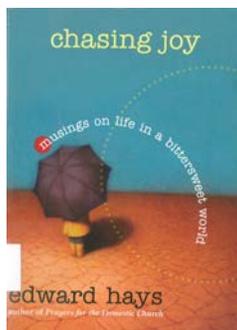
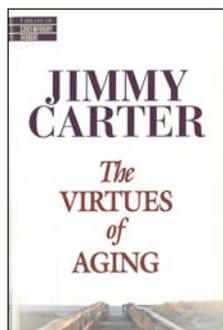
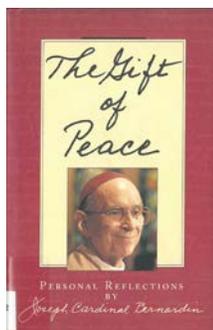
Joseph Cardinal Bernadin

Written in the last months of his life; recounts his acceptance of peace as a gift from God

On my own at 107

Sara L. Delany

A tribute of a 107-year-old woman to her sister, who died at age 104. 



Reflections from the CDC Annual Meeting

The Central District Conference Annual Meeting, June 21-23 in Goshen, involved Hively people in different roles. Delegates were Tim Stair, Winifred Saner and Tyler Klassen. Others involved were Margaret Sawatsky on the worship planning committee, Sueann VonGunten on the logistics planning committee, Melanie Quinn and Joyce Odhiambo providing childcare during the worship sessions, and Leroy Saner, chair of the CDC stewardship committee.

Reflections from Winifred Saner

Attending the 62nd annual session of CDC was a special experience. It was an enjoyable time with laughter, visiting, sharing with friends and listening to inspirational speakers. Sitting at the delegate table with eight new people made me aware how the face of CDC is changing. We are learning to know new people and the churches they represent. During the delegate sessions we received Berea Mennonite Church from Atlanta, GA; Chapel Hill Mennonite Church, Chapel Hill, NC; and Raleigh Mennonite Church in Raleigh, NC; as members of CDC. We were also introduced to three churches that are pursuing membership: Americus Mennonite

Reflections from Leroy Saner

Everyone loves a good story. Stories can entertain and inspire. They can inform and admonish. The theme of this year's conference was "Come walk with us. Tell us your story!" At each worship session we were asked to pick up a photograph of a road that reminds us of an experience in our journey through life and share the story with the person beside us. There were also stories from selected congregations. A theme song that was sung often to begin our various sessions was "Come, walk with us." One afternoon we had the opportunity to visit four storytelling stations. Jonathan Larson told a story of Jesus-like mission. Kay Bontrager-Singer told a story about short-term transitional housing (the Hope House in Goshen). Cyneatha Millsaps talked about Get Home Safe: African Americans' rules for survival in an age of hate and guns. Jonathan and Betty Schrag and others talked about the International Guest House: A thriving hospitality ministry in Washington, D.C. More stories were shared in the various seminars. And even the sermons

Fellowship from Americus, GA; Emmanuel Mennonite Church from Gainesville, FL; and Jubilee Mennonite Church from Bellefontaine, OH. The delegates also approved a spending plan for the year 2018-2019 of \$234,257.00.

The theme "Come Walk with us: Tell us your story" was presented in various ways throughout the conference. The storytelling sessions were very inspiring and presented by various people. The worship sessions were based on Acts 16:6-15. Read this scripture passage and allow your mind to comprehend the message. Where is your walk taking you? Sometimes we have no idea where we are going, but the Holy Spirit will lead us to new adventures with new opportunities.

in the three worship sessions contained inspiring stories. Nina Lanctot talked about "The Divine No." John Powell spoke on "Host as friend, enemy, stranger, guest." Jonathan Larson spoke about "The Divine Yes." All three sermons were based on Acts 16: 6-15. This passage has a lot to teach us.



Sueann VonGunten and Joyce Odhiambo pick up a popcorn snack following the Friday evening worship service at the CDC Annual Meeting.

Reflections from the CDC Annual Meeting (cont.)

Reflections from Tyler Klassen

The things I reflect most strongly on from the CDC Annual Meeting are the faces and the moments.

When I remember the faces, I think of the smiles, quiet watching during listening, and the quiet intensity during moments of spiritual awareness. There was much laughter shared, fresh fruit and cookies snacked on, and quite a lot of coffee drunk.

What I didn't see was tension. When the spending plan was presented, a report on the work with the Allegheny Conference was discussed, new congregations introduced or welcomed into Central District there wasn't worry or anxiety in the faces of conference attendees. Faces showed attention, caring

and openness. There is in CDC a trust in the leaders and the leading of the Spirit.

The moments I reflect on were those times when light, motion, humanity and color came together. The gentle touch of finger and water on a forehead, a row of lights and the single point of a trumpet player in the balcony, and the prophetic power of preaching reflected in the face of the speaker. There was the colorful blur of a child running to catch up with a friend, two people deep in conversation sitting in front of a window, and the soft cool light of a cloudy day in the garden outside the church.

These are not deep, or perhaps important memories. But in the patchwork history of CDC as I experience it, they are the quilt I am stitchin' together. 

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church: 1958-2018 Hively as a teaching congregation

Hively began in 1958 with a strong connection to the seminary, now Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. One way that has continued through our history is that we have been a "teaching congregation" for seminary students learning how to be pastors or to do specific forms of ministry.

In the last 20 years, we have had 12 pastoral ministry interns, serving for a semester, a summer or a school year. We have learned from them as they have learned from us. Here are the 12:

Andrew Austin

2015-2016 school year, summer 2016

Ryan Harker

February-May 2014

Theo Odhiambo

February-May 2013

Terri Geiser

February-May 2012

Sun Ju Moon

2009-2010

Emily Toews

2004-2005

Matthew Christian

2003-2004

Bryce Miller

2002-2003

Todd Lehman

2002-2003

Bok Ki Kim

2000-2001

Jackie Wyse

Summer 2000

David Carlson

1997-1998 



Pastoral intern Emily Toews joins Pastor Mick Sommers in baptizing Megan (Whitacre) Erwin on October 2, 2004, in Shavehead Lake at Camp Friedenswald.

Hively calendar

July 22, August 5, August 18

5:30 pm
Spaghetti and Scripture for senior and junior high youth

August 12

11 am
Church Without Walls joins us for worship

August 26

Picnic at OxBow County Park following worship

September 9

Congregational retreat at Camp Friedenswald

September 30

60th anniversary celebration

Area activities

September 21-22

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

Hively Happenings
editor: Mary E. Klassen
office@hivelymennonite.org

Announcements

MCC Canner needs canners

Mennonite Central Committee has an urgent need to fill three of the four canner operator positions. They are asking congregations for help in identifying and encouraging people to serve. Do you know any single men looking for an enriching service opportunity who are at least 21 years old? Ideal applicants would have mechanical aptitude and be willing to obtain their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with training provided by MCC. For this position MCC prefers single men due to living arrangements and travel demands. It is a distinct possibility, if these positions cannot be filled, disruptions to the canning schedule may become unavoidable.

AMBS

Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology (noncredit) Sept. 12—Oct. 23. This online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course, taught by Jamie Pitts, Ph.D., covers the birth and development of 16th-century Anabaptist movements and looks at interpretations of the meaning of "Anabaptism" today. Cost: \$200 before Aug. 22; \$250 after. CEUs available. ambs.edu/shortcourses

Women Doing Theology 2018

Theme: Talkin' Bout a Revolution: Dialogue, Practice and the Work of Liberation
Date: Nov. 8-10
Location: Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart
For scholarship and registration, men's application, to submit proposals, and all other details, visit MennoniteUSA.org/WDT18

Thank you from Jail Ministry

Cory Martin, chaplain of the Elkhart County Jail, recently sent this letter to Hively in response to our financial contributions for this ministry:

I wanted to take a few minutes to thank you for your generosity toward the Elkhart County Jail Ministry over the years.

As a result of your generosity the Jail Ministry was able to buy a rental house last year to help provide clean, safe and affordable housing for people coming out of jail. We have had a family living in the Jail Ministry House for the past six months and it has been a blessing for them to have a stable place to live where they are treated with love and respect by their landlord. They have taken full advantage of this opportunity and have been able to pay off their debt and begin saving for their first ever home.

This year the Jail Ministry will begin offering free tattoo removals to every inmate. Again. Because of your generosity we will be able to purchase a laser tattoo removal machine as well as hire a part-time laser technician to perform the procedures. Our priority will be to remove gang related tattoos and face tattoos. For inmates looking for a fresh start this will be an invaluable benefit.

We are so grateful for your prayers and support. 

