



May 2018

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH

Happenings



From “Practicing Resurrection” to being “Alive and Moving with God’s Spirit”

Tim Stair, pastor

My favorite sentence ending a poem is from Wendell Berry’s “The Mad Farmer Liberation Front.” It’s two words. *Practice resurrection.*

Since Easter our worship services have been exploring how we “practice resurrection” by participating in God’s global uprising—in community, in partnerships, in stewardship, in worship, and in discipleship. Whatever the hardships, with Jesus, we keep rising up!

Now as we move into the season of Pentecost we will think about how, in all these things, we are alive in, and moving with, God’s Spirit. How does God’s Spirit light the fire of love in us, so that we move with the Spirit and love God more deeply? How, from that love, are we empowered to love others and ourselves, in all our diversity, messiness, and unity?

I have been noticing a number of ways in which God’s Spirit has been moving at Hively.

I’ve seen it as we’ve tried to incorporate more embodied ways of worshipping in some our litanies, prayers and singing. Sometimes it’s been with simple suggested hand or body movement, other times when someone has simply felt led to move or raise a hand or hands in singing. These are fine and good, but we also always need to be giving each other the freedom to do them or not do them, depending on how the Spirit works in each of us. Some of us are strongly drawn to this type of expression. Others are not. Both are fine.

I’ve seen the Spirit moving in how we care for each other. I’ve seen folks inviting each other for meals, assisting with some errand or favor, doing some unexpected act of kindness.

I’ve been experiencing the Spirit moving with our Prayer Choir, every other Tuesday evening. Usually there are four to six of us. One time I found especially moving was when the Prayer Choir went to each room in the church and to two locations outside, and prayed for the people who use that space and the activities that take place there. “Spirit of God,” we prayed at each space, “inhabit this space and the people who use it.” I experienced a profound sense of God’s presence and of God’s love for the people who gather here.

I’ve been seeing the Spirit move through new people who have been visiting. People report that they feel warmly received, sense the hospitality present, and love the diversity of people who are together.

May we continue to “practice resurrection” with God’s uprising in Jesus. May we sense the aliveness of God’s Spirit, and may we continue to learn to move with God’s Spirit.

Vol. 35 No. 5

800 E Hively Avenue
Elkhart, Indiana 46517

574.294.3423

www.hivelymennonite.org

A visit with Representative Walorski's aide

by Greg Suderman

Sometimes it is hard to know how much energy to devote to political activity. Ultimately I want to trust that God is acting on behalf of the marginalized and powerless. But the reality is that there is so much injustice in our community, country and world. In this polarized environment, I ask myself, "Does it do any good to contact our government leaders who appear to have very different views than I do?" My life is busy enough that I don't need to devote my time to something that is futile. At the same time I hear from MCC's Washington Peace section that these contacts make a difference. I am also inspired by people like Louise and Virgil Claassen, Ellene Miller, Jorge Vielman and others who are faithful in advocating for peace and justice.

Being semi-retired means I have more choice about how I spend my time. Living and interacting with Latino neighbors and friends who have become like family has deepened my passion for immigration reform. I see how national policies negatively affect the lives of my friends. Gun violence is another issue that has been a concern of mine for many years. Recently I have been inspired by the Parkland, Florida, students who have thrust the need for change into the national political spotlight.

I vote in every election for candidates who I hope are most aligned with God's call for a more equitable world. More recently I have put up signs in our yard and even gone door to door endorsing candidates. Through the years I have written letters, sent emails and made phone calls to my congressional representatives and the President. Periodically I participate in rallies and protests.

But lately I felt convicted to do more! I hoped to talk face to face with our Second District representative, Jackie Walorski, during the congressional Easter recess. Her scheduler said she wasn't available on such short notice, but said that Brian Spaulding, director of Jackie's Mishawaka office, would

be glad to meet with me.

Knowing Jackie's background as a missionary, I hoped to connect through common Christian values, so I shared that my concern for immigrants is rooted in my desire to follow the teaching and example of Jesus. Brian assured me that he, Jackie and others in the office are guided by Christian beliefs. I gave Brian a copy of Danny Carroll's book, *Christians at the Border*, to share with Jackie and others at the office.

We also talked about how important documented and undocumented workers are to the economy of Elkhart County. Brian believes the Congress will pass a bill protecting Dreamers. It is just a matter of when (mid-term elections are a big influence on timing of votes) and what will be attached to the bill. I emphasized my concern wasn't just for the dreamers, but for their parents and family members as well and that I was concerned about increased deportations and threats. While it is clear to me that we don't agree on all the details, he understands how important this issue is to Elkhart County. He noted that Elkhart County is much more pro-immigration than other areas of the district.

My hopes for a ban on assault weapons was less well received, but overall I was pleasantly surprised how comfortable our conversation felt. I followed up with an email thanking Brian for the opportunity to talk together. Brian wrote back with these words:

I appreciated our visit too. It was refreshing and a pleasant change from most meetings. We were able to have a discussion which is nice. I appreciate and respect your perspective. I look forward to seeing you again when you meet with the congresswoman. God bless you and your family.

Hearing those words encouraged me that constructive dialogue is crucial and I hope encourages you to follow the Spirit's prompting as well. 

Hively library books by Hively authors and editors

Books by Hively authors and editors are featured in the foyer book rack. Explore the breadth of creativity and scholarship they represent in our congregation. Listed here are only some of the books by Hively folks.

Current member-attenders

Rich Preheim

In Pursuit of Faithfulness: Conviction, Conflict, and Compromise in Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, 2016, Herald Press

A story-filled history of Indiana-Michigan Conference, which documents its influence on the wider North American Mennonite Church.

Judy Roth

Serendipity and Me, 2013, Viking
Cups Held Out, 2006, Herald Press
Goodnight, Dragons, 2012, Disney, Hyperion Books

Walter Sawatsky

Soviet Evangelicals since World War II, 1981, Herald Press

Chronicles and interprets the experience of the believers' church in the Soviet Union from 1940-80.

Going Global with God as Mennonites for the 21st Century, 2017, Bethel College

Explores the increasingly global perspective on the Mennonite story.

Attenders and former members

Lois Barrett

Doing what is right: What the Bible says about Covenant and Justice, 1989, Herald Press

Traces the idea of justice in the Old Testament and turns to Jesus for insights on how to carry out such a healing ministry.

Jacob W. Elias

1&2 Thessalonians (In the Believers Church Bible Commentary series), 1995, Herald Press

Perry Yoder

Shalom: The Bible's Word for Salvation, Justice, and Peace, 1987, Evangel Publishing House

Members no longer living

Cornelius J. Dyck, editor

An Introduction to Mennonite History, 1967 and 1993, Herald Press

Leland Harder

Doors to lock and doors to open: The discerning People of God, 1993, Herald Press

Samuel Floyd Pannabecker

Faith in Ferment: A History of Central District Conference, 1968, Faith and Life

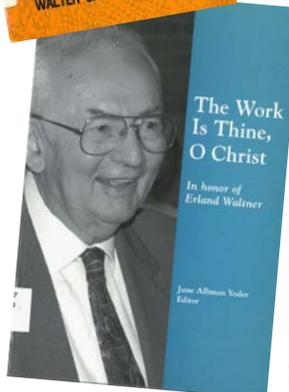
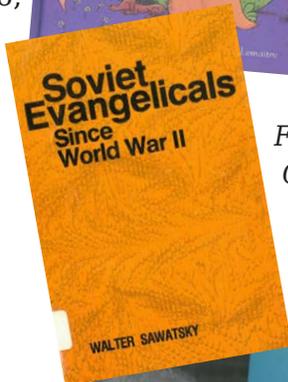
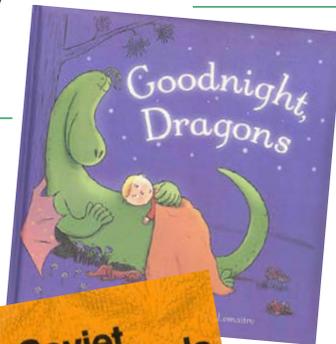
Orlando Schmidt, collector and editor

Sing and Rejoice (the old green hymnal), 1979, Herald Press

Erland Waltner

The work is thine, O Christ: In honor of Erland Waltner, edited by June Alliman Yoder, 2002, Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2002

Includes writings by Erland Waltner, former president of Mennonite Biblical Seminary, along with the story of his life and tributes from others. 



Guess who's coming to dinner



Seven Hively friends joined Greg and Beth Suderman at their home on April 28 for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. A total of 62 people participated in eight homes, enjoying the opportunity for fellowship and sharing a meal together.

Messages from distant members

We received a letter from Neal and Janie Blough, Hively members and mission workers in Paris, France. The full letter is posted on the foyer bulletin board; here is an excerpt:

We were once again able to observe firsthand the ever-growing presence of Christian immigrants from the “global south.”



In Montreal, we witnessed the presence and active participation of Christians from Haiti, French-speaking Africa, as well as Latin America and Asia. Although quite a different context, this phenomenon is similar to our experience in Paris. In Morocco, the vast majority of church-goers, pastors, and priests are from sub-Saharan Africa. On Sunday, we attended a Protestant church service and were among the 4-5 Europeans present amid several hundred Africans from a wide-range of countries. This same diversity was clearly represented in our classes, as our students came from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Togo, Ethiopia, Benin and France.

Given our present world context, we can only pray that Christians can be salt and light as well as peacemakers wherever they may be found on this planet. We write this letter as the general council of Mennonite World Conference is holding meetings in Kenya and the Global Christian Forum in Bogota. Our faith is both local and global. We are deeply grateful that you are making it possible for us to be a part of this amazing adventure and calling.

A postcard, sent in late February by Jamie Pitts, Hively member and seminary professor on sabbatical, arrived last week.

Dear Hively family,

I've spent the last two months in Mexico City, enjoying time with friends here, eating great food, and doing lots of research. I've also taught some, and traveled to Oaxaca, Puebla and Cuernavaca—all beautiful cities! This Sunday I leave for Amsterdam. I miss you all and keep you in my prayers! 🍃



Congratulations, Hillary!

Hillary Harder was named Teacher of the Year for Roosevelt STEAM academy at an event on Tuesday, May 1. She also was named Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Elkhart Community Schools.

Read more in this *Elkhart Truth* story:

<https://bit.ly/2I8m8X1>

Congratulations, Hillary!



Join a learning tour to SEMILLA

by Charles (Charlie) Geiser

Willi Hugo Perez, President of SEMILLA Latin American Anabaptist Seminary, shared the story of SEMILLA with us as well as his personal story last January. He is the face of many Central American sisters and brothers who could share similar stories of endeavoring to follow Christ in challenging situations. Civil wars, narcotrafficking, and general violence have not quelled their spirits nor their witness.

As a SEMILLA volunteer, I am organizing a learning tour to SEMILLA from October 19-30. I invite you to consider being part of this experience. Your presence will help to encourage our sisters and brothers in Central America as you listen to their stories and are challenged by their witness.

We will meet with SEMILLA staff; learn about history, culture and religion in Central

America; and meet with student groups and Anabaptist congregations in several communities. That will include making short side trips to Honduras and El Salvador.

We will travel to the community where Deb Byler lives and meet with her as she shares about her ministry and life among Kek'chi' Mennonite Church communities.

Our visit will be an expression of solidarity; though, in the end, as we hear each other's stories and share the challenges of living our faith in our respective contexts, we experience mutual solidarity and support.

The cost of the learning tour is \$1,250 plus airfare.

I will place some brochures on the table in the foyer and would be glad to talk with any interested people. It would be a delight to have representation from Hively! 



Announcements

Heart to Heart Hospice

Heart to Heart Hospice is seeking volunteers to assist patients and loved ones. Volunteers fill many roles, including companionship, office work and specialized services (like pet therapy and music therapy). Contact Karin at 574-440-4224 or kfisher@htooh.com.

Central District Conference

The 2018 Central District Conference annual meeting hosted by the CDC Central area congregations will meet at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, June 21-23, 2018. The theme of **Come, walk with us. Tell us your story!** will be the focus for our time together. Registration is now open at www.mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting/.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

The Spring 2018 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology*—on the theme, “The church and young adults”—is available free online. Select individual articles or open the entire issue. Check it out! mennovision.org

Take a fall seminary course. Online courses at AMBS include Christian Attitudes Toward War, Peace, and Revolution; Christian Theology 1; and Spiritual Practices: Prayer and Scripture. Hybrid courses (online, with one week on campus) include Isaiah and Family Spirituality. More than 10 on-campus courses are also offered. Nonadmitted students get 50 percent off their first class! ambs.edu/onecourse

Buzzing at the Hive



Hively calendar

May 13, May 27

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

Area activities

June 21-23

Central District Conference
Annual Meeting at
College Mennonite
Church, Goshen

Wednesday, May 9, was our annual Potawatomi Zoo field trip for students and families.

Friday, May 18, is our last day of preschool, which we celebrate with our annual Awards Chapel. The Stevens Puppets will be here to perform "Beauty and the Beast" for us! HAMC members and attenders are welcome to join us for this performance (9-9:45 am).

We will hand out certificates and gifts to each student, watch a slide show of our preschool year activities and celebrate with a picnic at the end of the morning.

We are having visitors stop

in on a regular basis to learn more about the preschool. Our morning classes are about half full already. Enrollment will continue throughout the summer. Please pass the word to friends, families and neighbors about the preschool.

We want to thank the church body for their support during this preschool year. Many of you go above and beyond in your giving and volunteering at the preschool. You are so appreciated. Blessings!

— Julee Hay 

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church: 1958-2018 First worship services

The first public gathering of what is now Hively Avenue Mennonite Church was on May 4, 1958, at Concord Westside School.

According to *Grace Stories*, the history book written by Erland Waltner at the time of our 40th anniversary, the first hymn sung was "Come, thou fount of every blessing," and additional hymns were "O worship the King," and "I love thy kingdom, Lord."

Hively's third Sunday bulletin announced the birth on May 12 of Jarold Tyler Klassen, another first for the young congregation.

For more stories from Hively's history, ask in the church office for a copy of *Grace Stories*, which includes reminiscences from many who were part of Hively through the first 40 years. 



In summer 1998, Mary Berkshire Gingerich and Erland Waltner signed books they developed for Hively's 40th anniversary. Mary coordinated a cookbook, and a few copies of it are available in the church office, along with copies of *Grace Stories*, the history book.

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