

ON THE JOURNEY

Today I put it away. For the last 8 months or so, it has been laying on the table in the family room--not even half completed. When I first got it out, Don and I worked on it almost every evening, but lately, not so much. It was one of the most difficult ones I have ever encountered, and our interest dwindled. 1,000 pieces--8 months--and we hadn't even hit the halfway mark! Granted, we didn't work on it every day, or even every week. We lost interest. We gave up--I put it away--1,000 puzzle pieces--back in their little tin box. God--our Father--the master builder of this huge puzzle of earth--way more than 1,000 pieces!! Has He lost interest in our part of His puzzle? Absolutely not! In both Joshua 1:5b and Hebrews 13:5b, He assures us He will never leave or forsake us. In Fanny Crosby's song Blessed Assurance, she writes:

*"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh what a foretaste of Glory Divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, Washed in His blood."*

Assurance that He is ours! He won't put us in the cupboard in our little tin box! Do we give up on Him? Do we only work on His puzzle of life every week or so? Only on Sundays? When Sunday is over, do we put Him back in His Bible box and put Him on the shelf in the cupboard? Do we only call on Him in times of trouble? Many of us have reached the half-way point of our life's puzzle--a testimony that He is still with us! He didn't put us on the shelf in the proverbial cupboard! In last Sunday's church service, we prayed. WE prayed a lot! I would venture to say over 1,000 petitions were sent up to our Father, our God, and our Savior. I'm thinking if the cupboard doors were closed--we blasted them open! We prayed,

*"Lord, Listen to your children praying
Lord send your Spirit in this place---
Lord, listen to your children praying
Send us love, send us power, send us Grace."*

I know He heard us--I have His blessed assurance. While the cupboard doors are open--I think I'll get out another puzzle.....

Submitted by Bernie Miller

CALENDAR		
Wed 9/13	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
Thurs 9/14	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
	6:30 pm	Board
Sun 9/17	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
Mon 9/18	9:00 am	Health Screening
	5:30 pm	Worship Commission
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 9/19	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 9/20	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	7:00 pm	Fall Congregational Meeting
Sun 9/24	9:30 am	Kent Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF

Mon 9/25		Health Department
	7:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
Tues 9/26	7:00 pm	Music Practice
Wed 9/27	9:00 am	Moms In Touch
	5:00 pm	Outreach Commission
	5:45 pm	Wednesday Evening Meal
	6:45 pm	Visitation Team Meeting

Administrative Assistant Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
(Kent's daily schedule varies; you may want to call

- **All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.**

*Copies of the newsletter are available on the shelf outside of the Sanctuary.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September

Lydia	Frey	13
Chris	Wingard	13
Nancy	Bontreger	15
Brian	Mullet	15
Al	Miller	19
Steve	Bontrager	20
Jean	Shriner	22
Connie	Beachy	24
Kris	Bontrager	26
Arlene	Schrock	27
Patty (Ron)	Yoder	27
Fanny	Weirich	28
Carolyn	Miller	30

WORSHIP

Looking Ahead: Jesus demonstrated the ability to bring peace into any situation, whether comforting the grieving, preventing a stoning, or calming a storm. As followers of Jesus, we are also called to bring the peace of Christ into the situations of our lives

Background scriptures: Matthew 14:13-36; Mark 4:35-41; John 8:2-11; 11:1-44

Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

Next Sunday:

The Fall Congregational Meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 7:00 pm.

There will be a short meeting on Wednesday, September 27, at 6:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary for anyone involved in the Visitation Ministry here at FMC. Please bring any questions or comments you may have to that meeting. Thanks, Jean Shriner

The affirmation for Carolyn Miller and Ike Walther was an overwhelming 97%+. Please continue to pray for the board as they begin the new year.

ADMINISTRATION

Stewardship Report for September 10:

Money Given to Budget \$4,973.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,860.76

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$9,145.00

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$11,721.52

COMMUNITY LIFE

Wednesday Evening Meals will begin on September 20th. Dates that need to be filled in yet on the sign-up sheet are: Sept. 27th, Oct. 4th, Nov. 8th, Nov. 15th, and Dec. 6th & 13th. Please consider organizing a meal.

Register Now for the National Yoder Reunion to be held September 20-23 in Shipshewana. Information is posted on the bulletin board or you can pick up information in the church office.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) is excited to invite you to the annual Circles of Love Fundraising Banquet on October 13, 2017. The evening features a delicious fall meal, stories of four congregations nurturing inclusive faith communities, and the opportunity to help build ADN's network and vital advocacy for the full inclusion of people touched by disability. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm and will be hosted at Prairie Street Mennonite Church (1316 Prairie Street, Elkhart IN, 46516). Tickets are complementary, but reservations are required. A free will offering will be collected to support Anabaptist Disabilities Network. Please RSVP no later than October 5th. Email adnet@ADNetOnline.org, or leave a message at 574-343-1362, or register on our Facebook event page (search for Circles of Love Banquet). Your support is important to ADN. We hope to see you there!

The Compassion Fund is in need of funding. This is the account we use to help those in need in our congregation. We have had some special requests which will deplete the funds we currently have. If you are willing to give please make a check out to CLC Compassion Fund. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

The Leadership Development office of Mennonite Church USA is seeking applications for an office manager, currently a two-thirds time position. Primary responsibilities of this position includes maintaining the national database (MennoData) and technical support for the "calling system" which assists pastors, congregations and

conferences in the pastoral search process. Successful candidates will be detail oriented with strong computer skills and able to work in a confidential environment. We are committed to diversity among staff and welcome people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. To request a copy of the job description and an application form, contact HR@MennoniteUSA.org or call 316-281-4257.

Calling all quilters! Gather with a community of other quilters who share your passion and interest at the MCC Quilting Retreat at Camp Friedenswald in Cassopolis, Michigan, on November 3-5. Come alone or with a group, with skills to share or interest in learning, with a project for an MCC auction or a project of your own. More information at mcc.org/get-involved/events/quilting-retreat.

MCC Alumni & Friends Gathering: As alumni or interested friends of Mennonite Central Committee, you are warmly invited to join us for an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 13, at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, 800 E. Hively Ave., in Elkhart. Special guest speaker will be Cesar Flores, current MCC Area Director for Central America and Haiti. Please RSVP at 574-534-4133 or to img@mcc.org.

DISCIPLING

Visio Divina: Fridays, September 15 & 29 and October 13 & 20, 9:00 - 11:00am: A series of four retreats offering an innovative practice of small group spiritual direction based on art work done by participants or on pictures of paintings. No training in art is necessary to participate; the goal is not production, but rather understanding and discernment. Facilitated by Sylvie Gudin Cost: \$120 for all 4 sessions. Visit www.pathwaysretreat.org for more information.

Save The Date: A free Christian College Fair will be held on Monday, September 25th from 6:30-8:30 PM at Bethel College in the Wiekamp Athletic Center. If interested, please see Maribeth in the church office to pick up a card to be entered in a drawing.

Alumni Reunions: Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen will be hosting class reunions and activities for its alumni and their families on Saturday, Sept. 23. The following graduating classes will hold their reunions Saturday: 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012. Reunion classes will meet Saturday afternoon/evening at Bethany for visiting and a catered dinner. Alumni interested in attending should register by Sept. 14. More details are available at www.bethanycs.net/reunions.

Alumni Nights at Bethany: Bethany Christian Schools alumni and their family will receive free admission to the following home games: volleyball (11 a.m. vs. Lakeland) and girls soccer (7 p.m. vs. Westview) on Saturday, Sept. 23, in conjunction with Alumni Weekend events; boys soccer on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. (varsity only vs. Elkhart Christian).

OUTREACH

First Mennonite Women's project for September is the Relief Sale. Jan Yoder will have devotions for the September 14th meeting.

We are just a few weeks away from the Relief Sale this year! If you haven't previewed the auction items on Facebook this year, you should! Just a few last minute donation needs: The Online Auction (BiddingforGood.com/MCCsale) opens bidding on Sept. 15, but the website is open now so you can see the items for sale. To volunteer to help during the sale or to serve on the Online Auction committee next year, contact Jep Hostetler, 614-561-1076, hostetlerjep@gmail.com. The Ten Thousand Villages Shop needs volunteers to help unpack and set up displays, sell product and pack up afterward. If you are able to help, please contact Phyllis Miller at phyllismillern@gmail.com. Crafts are in need of high quality new, handmade art and craft donations. Many different types of art and crafts are sold and we welcome fresh, trendy ideas. This year we are highlighting local, small business artists. Volunteers are also needed for set up and monitoring booths during the craft sale. If you are able to volunteer or donate, contact Laura Shue at 574-536-4549 or

lauralanaes@gmail.com. The Run For Relief 5k Run and 2k Fun Walk will be 8:00 AM Saturday morning. Online registration available now at <http://mccrunforrelief.itsyourrace.com>. On-site registration Friday evening from 5:30 to 9:00 PM or Saturday morning from 6:45 to 7:45 AM. The FAITHFUL GIVING AUCTION needs your help! Donate your new or only slightly used household, tools, antique furniture or recreational items for the Friday evening auction. Items should have a minimum \$75 value. Donated items will be accepted until September 15. Contact Deanna King at deannak23@yahoo.com or 574-875-8987. My Coins Count donations will be accepted all weekend at the sale. Be sure to bring your kids for story time with Lisa Weaver, author of *Swords into Plowshares*, Saturday at 10AM. Book signing will take place afterwards with an opportunity to purchase the book. New this year is a petting zoo in the kids area as well! We look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary with you and thank you for your generosity of time and donations!

The Habitat Build for the Kulish's will be held on October 7th from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board if you would like to participate – at least 14 volunteers are needed. There is also a sign-up sheet if you want to help with providing a meal and/or snack.

South Asia Flooding: MCC is providing relief assistance in Nepal, India and Bangladesh after two weeks of severe monsoon rains displaced more than 1.7 million people and killed 1,246 in the region. We are working with partners to provide emergency food, water, tarps, mosquito nets and hygiene kits to those affected. MCC welcomes your support for our relief work in the area. More information at mcc.org/south-asia-flood-relief.