

November 2020

**Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church**

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another



Thank you to Rina Hofer for the cheerful autumn decorations gracing both the front foyer (left) and the sanctuary (right). Also thank you to Sylvia Hofer for the outdoor decorations, keeping HMC always looking good!

'I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.' *L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables*

November BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Calvin Hofer | 16) Abby Bolin |
| 3) Vivienne Koehler | 19) Steve Mendel |
| 3) Monica Clem | 19) Kym Tschetter |
| 4) Tracy Bauer | 21) Nicolle Timmerman |
| 5) Marilyn Hofer | 22) Sharon Waltner |
| 8) Brandon Barta | 23) Camilla Hofer |
| 11) Robert Kleinsasser | 25) Chad Hofer |
| 12) Lori Rensink | 27) Donita Davis |
| 14) Ellyana Stahl | 29) Steve Friesen |

November ANNIVERSARIES

- 5) Paul & Priscilla Hofer
 10) Amanda & Rodney Mettler

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 118:19

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness continues to all generations. Psalm 100:4-5

Oh, the beauty of the season, Lord, created so majestically by you. Its glory reflected in each area of our lands; areas as different as we your children are. Some areas are experiencing sweet fruit, overhead we hear the honking of geese, we see fields of grain, and in places the colored leaves are already dusted with snow. We praise you for our bounty and for the brave pilgrims who, in face of hardship and death, found heart to feast and fellowship with their own – and those who were “different”. Surely this was another of your messages that You ask not for *uniformity*, but *unity*.
Amen

Projects

Congregational Ministries:

November: Mennonite Disaster

Service—Cash project

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
Sept. 27	44	\$1,664.00
Oct. 4	46	\$2,585.00
Oct. 11	45	\$1,657.00
Oct. 18	44	\$1,578.00
Oct. 25	No Service	



Mennonite Central Committee
by Norman Hofer

Long Term Service From Hutterthal Church

- 1) Merle & Vivian Hofer Epp, Akron MCC office assignments 1956-1959
- 2) Jonathan & Angeline Mendel, Akron, PA, Newton, KS, Denver, CO
1955-1958
- 3) George Hofer Jr. PAX Program in Germany, Austria and Morocco 1959-1961
- 4) Rodney Hofer PAX Program in Yugoslavia 1969-1971
- 5) Marlyn Friesen PAX Program in Liberia, West Africa 1960-1962
- 6) Dale Hofer, TAP (Teachers Abroad Program) in Nigeria, Africa 1972-1975
- 7) Bonnie Hofer TAP (Teachers Abroad Program) in Zambia, Africa 1975-1978
- 8) David and Cindy (Hofer) Graber Brazil, South America 1978-1980 with MCC
- 9) Larry and Edie Tschetter Bolivia, South America 1980-1983 with MCC
- 10) Mark and Lori (Hofer) Ortman Nepal 1988-1990 with MCC
- 11) Stanley Hofer MCC Meat Canner 1991-1993
- 12) Mark Stahl MCC meat canner 1988-1991
- 13) Matt Tschetter, Akron, PA 1995-1997, Nicaragua 2012-2014 with MCC
- 14) Natalie Friesen, Mennonite Mission Network, St. Louis, MO
Teaching 2011-2012
- 15) Jaime Tschetter, Mennonite Mission Network, Tucson, AZ
Teaching 2017-2018

Amy Hofer served two years in Winnipeg, Canada
with Mennonite Voluntary Service

Larry and Edie Tschetter Colombia, SA
with Commission on Overseas Missions 1971-1973

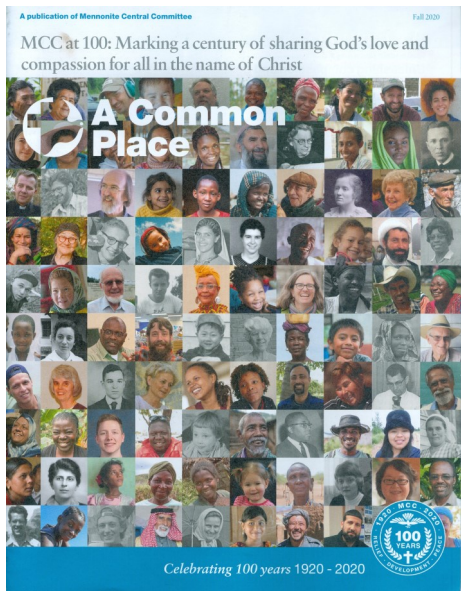
Melanie Friesen, teaching on Navajo reservation 1993-1994
Mennonite Voluntary Service

Galen Hofer served two years in Denver, CO
Habitat for Humanity Mennonite Voluntary Service

Maria Tschetter, Chicago, IL
with Mennonite Voluntary Service 2004-2006

Stanley Hofer served 1 year
with Habitat for Humanity in Denver. CO Mennonite Voluntary Service

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The Fall of 2020 issue of "A Common Place" from MCC had on the front-page pictures of 100 of the volunteers that served terms with MCC over the last 100 years. I was thinking that Hutterthal Church had many young people that volunteered long term (over one year) service with MCC. I had no idea when starting this project how many volunteers there were. No salaries were paid, just room, board and a monthly allowance (tooth paste money) was given.

Most terms were two years. The TAP (Teachers Abroad Program) was only for certified teachers (both male and female) and was often a three-year term. Most terms were in Africa and South America.

The PAX (Latin word for peace) program was for two year term overseas and was in place of US Military Service, for unmarried men only.

Dozens of young people from Hutterthal volunteered a summer of service with Mennonite Voluntary Service, mostly helping teach Daily Vacation Bible School in Chicago, IL and Gulfport, Mississippi. Listing volunteers that serve in our community is almost impossible. Giving time and money is happening on a regular daily basis and is a part of our DNA.

Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Making a list like this is always dangerous. Mistakes and omissions are so easy to commit. I have not included men serving in Civilian Public Service or the IW program. Please help me update this data and share corrections with me. ...Norman Hofer



In the
Spotlight
Alyssa Hofer

My name is Alyssa Ruth Hofer. I am 8 years old and I am in the second grade. My parents are Chad and Rebecca Hofer. My “Nana” Marj and “Papa” Don live in Freeman, SD. While Grandpa Dennis and Grandma Anita live far away in Nebraska. I have a little sister named Brynlee. We like to play Barbies, school, and emporiums.



At school, I like Science and Social Studies. When I am at home, I like to read. My favorite kinds of books are chapter books that have magic or historical fiction like American Girl Books, Magic Tree House, and Never Girls books. I like to read so much that I read 83 books from March to August this year.



I like to learn about animals and I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up.





**The MCC Meat Canner
by Tim Eisenbeis
submitted by
Suzanne Koerner**

Earlier this month, the MCC mobile meat canner and crew began their annual tour of Mennonite and/or Amish communities. As always, the goal is to can as much meat (chicken, turkey or beef) as possible, which is then shipped to places of need throughout the world. This sharing of food “in the name of Christ” takes place through partner organizations at work where distribution is intended, most of them churches with whom MCC is familiar. The meat may be given to individual families as part of a relief effort after natural disasters or to schools and orphanages. MCC encourages local committees to keep up to 10% of the meat canned for distribution locally. Canned meat has been donated to the Freeman Food Pantry, Turner County Food Bank, a group on Pine Ridge reservation and the Yankton Banquet.

This year’s crew consists of only 3 young men instead of the usual 4, since no fourth member could be found. Gabriel Eisenbeis (Marion, SD) is now in the second half of his 2-year term and responsible for driving the canner truck as well as all the other tasks involved in coordinating the canning in each location. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s schedule is significantly reduced, including only stops where multiple communities can take turns using the canner (places in Ohio, Illinois and Kansas. Given all the uncertainties, the spring schedule is still somewhat undefined. Small stops like Freeman and Mt. Lake, MN have been dropped for this year. To allow for more physical distancing between volunteers, the canning process has been modified somewhat but still flows almost as quickly as before.

A meat canning committee is responsible in each location for purchasing the meat, paying for use of the canner and shipping, etc. They also are the ones to decide now whether it is safe to host the canner or not. It is somewhat risky, especially for the canner guys, being exposed to so many new people all the time and since there are only 3 of them. Your prayers for their continued health are much appreciated. Here in the greater Freeman community, there are some 14 committee members but the 4 primary ones (Joey Graber, Doug Gilbertson, Donovan Friesen & Tim Eisenbeis) do most of the organizing. Donations have always been strong here, such that funds have not been a problem. The challenge is always to have an adequate number of volunteers available as needed. To remain on the schedule, we will have to improve on that aspect.

For more information on where the meat is distributed and by whom, see the MCC website. MCC is always on the alert for possible new canner guys, so if you can think of someone who might fit the role, encourage him to consider it & apply.



November Project

Mennonite Disaster Service Cash Project

OUR MISSION

Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States. While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this service touches lives and nurtures hope, faith and wholeness.

Our Logo

The MDS logo displays a handshake in front of a cross.

The cross is at the center of our logo because Christ is at the center of our work. MDS volunteers serve in the name of Christ.

The handshake in the MDS logo represents the primary relationship between MDS volunteers and the clients we serve. Effective disaster response begins with working partnerships between organizations, agencies and individuals. Many of these partnerships begin and end with a handshake.



Go to :www.mds.mennonite.net/stay-connected To sign up for:

- Behind the Hammer (is a free quarterly magazine published by MDS. It contains feature stories about MDS work, volunteers, MDS Units and Regions, recipes and worksite safety tips)
- Volunteer updates
- On the Level (Our new monthly newsletter, [On The Level](#), featuring updates on MDS' work and current stories, will be distributed once a month, typically on a Thursday).

Web site: www.mds.mennonite.net

The Story of Wes and Kerry Hilton

submitted by Brigitta Hofer

Habitat for Humanity is a familiar organization to many of us. I have asked my neighbor, Kerry Hilton, who is a Senior Specialist in Knowledge Management on the Global People Team of Habitat for Humanity International to tell us about her work and also to share with us how it came about that she became my neighbor. Kerry's husband, Wes, teaches chemistry, physics, and STEM in the Bridgewater/Emery school district. It is a small world! Wes' Mom grew up in Mitchell, Parkston, and Milltown, but her ancestors, on her father's side, are buried in the Milltown Cemetery, as well as a field overlooking the Jim River. Lily is a 6th grader, and Autumn has two semesters left before graduating from Augustana University. The Paul E. and Annie Hofer farm referred to is the home place of Norman, Angie, and Baler.



Hilton Christmas picture from left to right: Kerry, Lily, Autumn, Wes.

After searching for an acreage for over 10 years, Wes and Kerry Hilton bought the former Paul E. and Annie Hofer place in 2014. Kerry dreamed of caring for a barn full of animals since she was a little girl and Wes looked forward to teaching science in a smaller town after teaching high school in Sioux Falls for 17 years. While Wes is originally from White Lake, SD, his great uncle Wes Potter was born in Bridgewater and his mother's family settled along the Jim River near Milltown in the 1870s. Kerry recently learned that her ancestors owned original homestead plots in both Hanson and Faulkton Counties before moving West to California.

How does a beach girl from Monterey Bay, California meet a boy from the South Dakota prairie?

Kerry and Wes first met in 1990 when they both joined the United States Peace Corps and spent 5 months training to serve as fisheries extension agents in Africa. Kerry was assigned to the Central African Republic and Wes served in Burundi. They met again in 1996 when Kerry moved to South Dakota. She had completed her master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and was done with her child advocacy assignment in Washington D.C. By August 1997, they were married, had bought their first house and Kerry had started working as the Associate Regional Director of the Upper Midwest Habitat for Humanity International office.

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In that role, Kerry helped to start local Habitat for Humanity chapters in South Dakota and Iowa, including training new boards of directors to raise funds, select partner families, manage volunteers and govern their non-profit organization. Over the past 23 years, Kerry has trained and facilitated strategic planning with 1,000s of staff and board members in at least 25 states.

The idea that became Habitat for Humanity first grew from the fertile soil of Koinonia Farm, a Christian, racially-integrated community farm outside of Americus, Georgia, founded by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan.

Jordan, and Habitat's eventual founders Millard and Linda Fuller, developed the concept of "partnership housing." The concept centered on those in need of adequate shelter working side by side with volunteers to build decent, affordable houses. The houses would be built at no profit. New homeowners' house payments would be combined with no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fundraising to create "The Fund for Humanity," which would then be used to build more homes.

In 1973, the Fullers decided to take the Fund for Humanity concept to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. After three years of hard work to launch a successful house building program, the Fullers returned to the United States and called together a group of supporters to launch their dream: Habitat for Humanity International, founded in 1976.

Thanks in no small part to the personal involvement of U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn and the awareness they have raised, Habitat now works in all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries and has helped more than 29 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter.



Kerry in Togo
bartering for a sword
with Tuaregs

Even with this success, the scope of the problem remains vast with 1 in 4 people in the world in need of decent housing. Did you know that the average cost to construct a new home in Uganda is \$5,369 and in Bangladesh it costs only \$2,000? Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the United States annually tithe unrestricted funds to other Habitat chapters located in high need regions in order to both support and connect families, volunteers and donors together around the globe.

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Some of the top priority countries where Habitat for Humanity builds, include: Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal and Haiti. Some U.S. based Habitat affiliates also send teams of volunteers on Habitat Global Village trips to help build homes in Thailand, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, etc. Last Thanksgiving, Wes and Kerry's oldest daughter Autumn, spent a week with a Global Village team, primarily all Mennonites, building a house in Guatemala. Once the global pandemic is behind us, these Global Village teams will ramp back up and are open to any volunteers and/or churches who want to send a team.

Our mission statement – ***Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope*** – calls us to accompany and serve the poor and is based on Holy Scriptures, including:

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:39)

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)

Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. (Luke 3:11)

While many Habitat offices remain shuttered around the globe, staff continue to meet virtually every morning to pray together, as well as each Wednesday for a one hour virtual service. Working for a Christian ministry has been a blessing during this time when churches are closed and social gatherings rare.

In the past three years, Kerry has shifted her focus from managing a team of Habitat trainers, to curating content libraries on the Habitat intranet, including collections of resources for spiritual practices, strategic planning, governance and advocacy. This full-time virtual job allows her to work remotely from home with little to no travel even before the global pandemic required this of so many. The Hofer barnyard and home has been an ideal place to explore long held interests while staying affordable so the Hiltons can donate and tithe to Christ's church and to local and global causes they care about.

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Daughter Lilly in the family pumpkin patch

Since 2014, Wes and Kerry Hilton and their two daughters, Lily and Autumn, have tried to care-take and improve the property, including adding steel roofing to the 100 year old barn, chicken coops, pig barn and Summer Kitchen. Due to wind damage the Summer of 2015, the Hiltons remodeled the inside of the house and added decks and new doors. The Summer Kitchen has been insulated and remodeled as a guest house with wood burning stove, modern doors, windows and electricity. It's a favorite place for visiting friends and family. We have also learned so much since we arrived about caring for heritage pigs, flocks of chickens and

ducks, the Jersey steer, horse, donkey, 4 sheep and 7 Nigerian Dwarf Dairy goats. There is always much to do and learn!

We are grateful to our neighbors, who without their generosity and patience, we would be stuck in a perpetual snow bank and our animals would have no grass hay, alfalfa or straw. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you want duck or chicken eggs and/or a milking goat, just holler! Happy to give away our horse to the first taker...we are always looking for another donkey, but only a Jenny will do!



To my Church Family,

Care giving is truly carrying out God's love to our fellow people. The Blessings of care giving when you make love a verb and truly live out your life everyday with love of God in your heart. The Blessing and support have been felt from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you for your generous Love Offering. May God Bless my church family.

Sincerely, Marcia



Barbie Hofer presented the Congregational Ministries project of Relief kits for MCC as a Moment in Mission on Oct. 4th.



Oct. 11 HMC had Freeman Academy Sunday. Nathan Epp brought the Moment in Mission, sharing the happenings at FA. The FA choir did not attend, because of Covid restrictions. The Brass Choir members and the Ukulele Class brought video numbers that we enjoyed.

Connection!: Published since April 2000

Connection! Editor & Publisher: Kathy Pullman

Advisory Board: Chair- Suzanne Koerner, Brigitta Hofer and Marcia Schrock

HMC Links

Website - <http://hmcfreeman.org> "Like" Us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/hutterthalmennonitechurch

****Submissions are due by the last Wednesday of the month.** Thank you.**