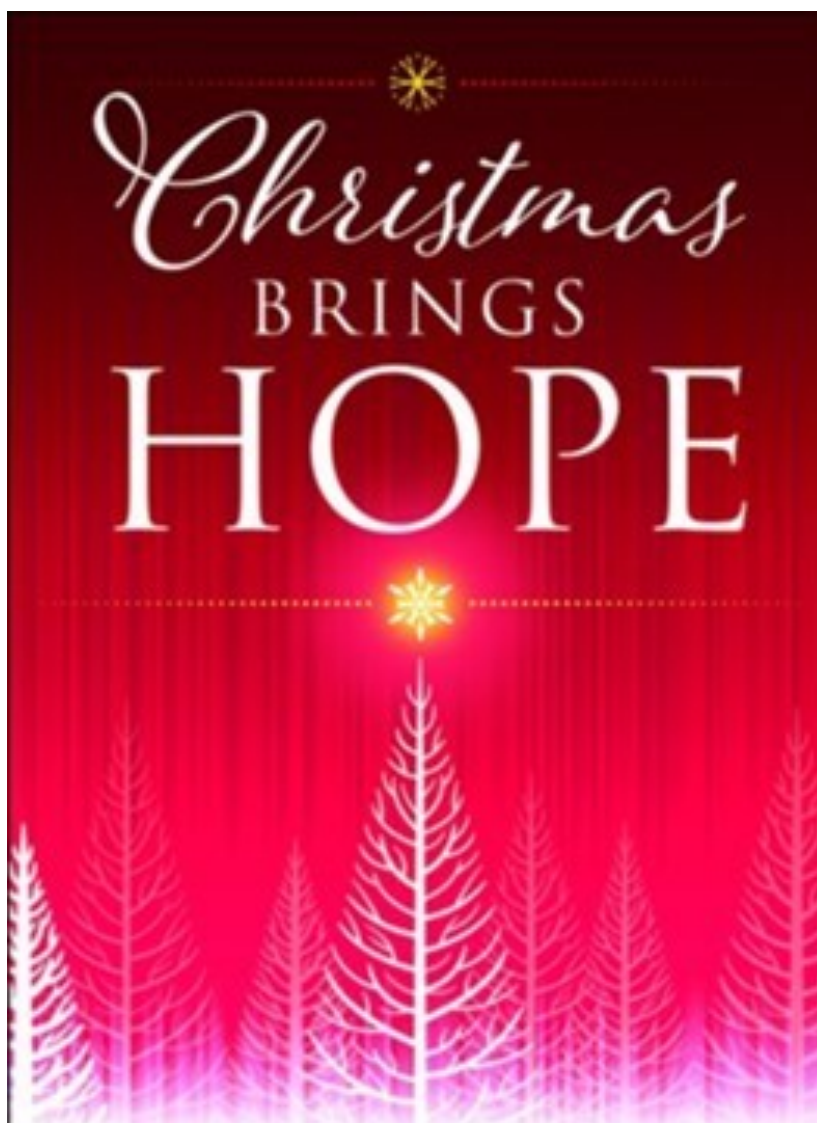


December 2020

Hutterthal
Mennonite
Church

Connection!

Making a CONNECTION with one another



December Birthdays

- 1) Marcia Schrock
- 2) Avery Waltner
- 3) Debra Kleinsasser
- 4) Carsen Hofer
- 7) Brandy Lima
- 8) Joann Stahl
- 8) Darlene Hofer
- 9) Barbie Hofer
- 9) Gordon Waltner

- 9) Maureen Friesen
- 10) Todd Hofer
- 10) Otto Mettler
- 13) Michelle Friesen
- 14) Roberta Julien
- 18) Jason Hofer
- 20) Eric Neuharth
- 21) Joyce Hofer
- 25) Sherryl Friesen
- 27) Moses Glanzer
- 28) Lyndon Hofer

December Anniversaries

- 27) Steve & Charlene Friesen

God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways; He does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, “Fall on the earth” and to the rain shower, “Be a mighty downpour.”

Job 37:5-6

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

It is a time for meditation, Lord, as we turn our calendars to the final month of the year. Let it be a glorious month, Lord, one in which we bring our gifts to Your cradle and Your cross, and finally, to Your throne of grace. It is a time for readying ourselves for winter’s ice. Be with us, Lord, as we pop corn and snuggle in warm blankets by the fire, remembering that Your gift is for **all**. Amen

Projects:

Congregational Ministries:

December:

cash project for

Don & Sonja Waltner

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Income</u>
Nov. 1	58	\$17,752.00
Nov. 8	36	\$2,555.00
Nov. 15	33	\$1,666.00
Nov. 22	44	\$1,444.00
* The Nov 1 offering consisted of \$16,552 for Harvest Mission Festival, and \$1,200 specifically designated for the general		

MCC... MDS... MEDA... MMA... MVS.... ??????

by Norman Hofer



Anybody coming into the Mennonite church denomination must surely think we love acronyms and initials. Every one of these Mennonite organizations started in an emergency, and nobody planned for them to be in existence decades later. Get the job over with and be done! Each organization teaches us lessons that stay with us throughout life.

MCC Mennonite Central Committee. Started one hundred years ago in 1920. Goal was to feed the starving Mennonites in the Molotschna and Chortitza settlements in Russia. It soon became apparent that thousands of Russians were starving and all needed food. God was teaching us all children are God's children and all need food. God was broadening our horizon to include all peoples, all denominations and all religious. Starving effects all people, and if we have the resources, feed everyone. Today MCC works in over 50 countries throughout the world.

MDS Mennonite Disaster Service. Started at a church picnic in Kansas in 1950. We are well aware of how we help each other in time of disaster, death or injury. It is a given, we just do it. The discussion was this is really not fair, we should be helping our non Mennonite neighbors in a disaster as well as our own. God wants us to help everyone.

Shortly after that picnic, nearby Wichita, Kansas suffered a terrible flood. An organized effort was made to provide physical help, mostly "mucking out" flooded homes. Cleaning out basements is horribly dirty, smelly, & tiring work, but a group joy was experienced at the end of a long day. The Mennonite disaster system was working!

Udall, Kansas, 25 miles from Wichita, suffered a tornado May 22, 1955. A town of 600 lost 192 buildings, 170 homes destroyed, 80 killed and 200 injured. The work for the newly formed MDS would be great and very nearby. A bitter lesson was learned at Udall, good intentions and willing volunteer labor force is not enough. The National Guard cordoned off the entire town to discourage looting, and nobody was allowed to enter.

MDS needed to get better organized and connect with state agencies, the Red Cross, Civil Defense, National Guard, the governor's office, etc. An identification badge will need to be developed. Today the MDS is recognized by all these entities, we work in coordination with the governing officials. Well over 3,000 Anabaptist churches and communities connect with MDS. Hutterthal Church is so fortunate to have Leroy Pullman be our connection with this larger organization. If a need developed in our Hutterthal church family, Leroy would organize and call for help. If the project is too large, the Freeman, Bridgewater, Marion churches would be called, if more help is needed, the state MDS would be called. The entire system would be notified on a national and international basis for help if needed.

(continued on next page)

The Rapid City flood June 9, 1972 was the initiation for the South Dakota Region 3 MDS unit. 1300 homes destroyed, 238 killed, 3057 injured. This would be a national MDS project. Housing, equipment, transportation, food services would need to be supplied. This community sent bus loads of people to help clean up the mess. Young people were a major part of the cleanup crews. Eventually over 1500 MDS volunteers provided 7,000 days of labor. Thank you, Leroy Pullman, for providing a connection with this larger MDS organization and Hutterthal Church today.

MEDA Mennonite Economic Development Associates. MEDA's origins are rooted in the aftermath of World War II when thousands of Russian Mennonites fled as refugees to Paraguay, South America. Mennonite Central Committee assisted them to make the migration. MEDA was born in 1954 when ten North America Mennonite businessmen each donated \$5,000.00 as assistance to help these refugees establish farms and business in the Chaco of Paraguay. MEDA does not distribute food or help in migration, MCC does that. MEDA provides loans at very low interest rate, and assist low income people to establish farms and business. Today MEDA works in over 70 countries. In its 65 year history, MEDA has assisted 93 million families around the world to a better life.

MVS Mennonite Voluntary Service has its roots in World War II when so much help was needed and Young People wanted to do service. No salaries are paid, but transportation, food and housing and a small monthly stipend is provided. Assignments are in North America and are for one to two years. A number of Hutterthal young people are served as volunteers.

Serving others is a part of our mission. We have been so blessed, and sharing with others is a natural reaction of Hutterthal. Each generation does their part to carry out the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. It truly is more blessed to give than to receive.



June 1980 Grand Island, NE tornado Hutterthal Youth Group MDS cleanup crew
Back row: Charles Glanzer, Douglas Glanzer, Sidney Hamm, Mark Stahl, Ferlyn Hofer, Brenda Glanzer, Mark Glanzer and Lori Hofer
Front row: Randy Glanzer, Mark Tschetter, Gary Tschetter, Todd Hofer, Monica Hofer, Carol Stahl and Kim Hofer



‘Joy to the World!’ or ‘Joy to the Reader!’.

Here are some Seasonal fiction titles to curl up with when the wind blows and the snow falls:

Christmas Prayer by Wanda E. Brunstetter. When a late season wagon-train heading to California in 1850 is stranded in a small cabin because of a snowstorm, Christmas causes some to re-evaluate their life plans.

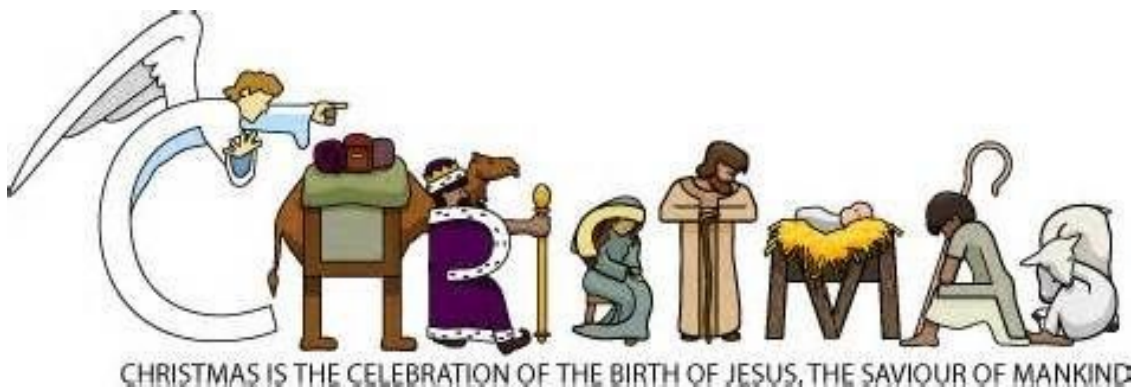
The Christmas Bus, by Melody Carlson. When none of Edith Ryan’s children plan to be home for Christmas, she decides to invite strangers to her large house/Inn. The guest list soon includes some eccentric houseguests which keep the story lively.

A Wreath of Snow by Liz Curtin Higgs. Hiding the truth and extending a lie creates more trouble for Meg Campbell and Gordon Shaw. But just how to get out of the web they created is the story plot for this Victorian story set in Scotland.

And of course there are always the inspiring classics:

The Christmas Box by Richard Paul Evans, **Cosmic Christmas** by Max Lucado and **A Cup of Christmas Tea** by Tom Hegg.

Look for these books selected and located for you on the shelves with the Christmas display.



Harvest Mission Festival

Submitted by Suzanne Koerner



Our Harvest Mission Festival guest speaker on November 1st was Megan Eisenbeis, who served in the MCC young adult exchange program SALT (Serving and Learning Together) from August 2018 to July 2019. For 11 months she lived in the beautiful country of Nepal, which is a country of about 29 million people. Megan spent most of her time in & around the capital of Kathmandu.

Though Megan has been back in the states for over a year now, she told us she can still hear the sounds, such as the zip of motorcycles, blasts from pressure cookers, and bell ringing signifying the daily Hindu worship rituals of her neighbors. (Nepal is rich in traditions of Hindu culture.) She said she could still smell the odors of people crammed into a small bus, fragrant incense purifying the air, and garlic sizzling in mustard oil. Her sense of sight is rekindled by thoughts of fields filled with families working together planting rice, and women carrying heavy baskets filled with branches to feed their goats.

The first 6 weeks of Megan's stay was filled with language (Nepali) and culture study. "I put a lot of effort into the language class that MCC provided in order to develop relationships with the people around me," Megan said. She showed a photo of she and her friends exploring the city "wearing masks before masks were cool" to protect them from the inescapable dust of Kathmandu. Even more helpful than the MCC Nepal staff was her host family: father, David, David's father, Deepa (her host mom,) and their twin sons, Sion and Simeon. Their home consisted of a garage-style shop on the first floor and a kitchen on the second floor, with a rooftop garden and patio. "My host family was so special to me," Megan shared. "They offered me the space that I needed and they answered my unending questions and taught me basic skills. She often helped Deepa with the weekly laundry to try to learn how to wash clothes by hand. Learning this method and other simple tasks was difficult and frustrating, but "they were patient and frequently explained things, making sure I was comfortable and included."

Though her host family was Christian, there are often conflicts between families who are a mix of Christian and Hindu. Being Christian often leads to estrangement from family and events. Not so with Megan's family. They were the only ones that she knew of during her time there who still made the effort to connect with extended family. "Somehow my host family found a way to be respected by their community and family members as Christians, and attend their Hindu relative ceremonies, and respect their traditions as well." She greatly respected them for their interaction with their Hindu family and persistence and strength in their faith. (cont. on next page)

Megan's farm background gave a familiar feel for the work she would be involved with, as the local organization she was partnered with had a focus on agriculture. The NGO performed garden and nutrition training to mothers in rural Nepal. The goal was for them to grow a variety of goods to provide a balanced diet to their families. It was a three hour walk for some of the women, and they were filled with joy to learn about techniques in soil care and fertilizing, and to receive packets of 10 vegetables' seeds they had learned about. Megan said that the raw, genuine joy of the women was contagious and humbling, and that those basic skills could improve their family's quality of life and bring empowerment to the women.

Besides learning, Megan's main task during her time in Nepal was to complete a research project to identify the effects of those trainings on the participant women compared to the other women in the same regions. She used her new language skills to interview the women, and admitted that now that she is nearly done with her graduate program, she wishes she could do it all over again, better understanding the process of research.

Megan feels that listening and speaking with coworkers, the locals, family members, and neighbors gave her opportunities to show others respect and value. She told us that sometimes outsiders come in with preconceived ideas of what will help a situation without considering the method that best fits the area. Examples would be Christmas traditions or "Western World" practices being better than other styles. More personally, Megan gave examples of how her learned ways of farming did not meet the needs of her Nepali family who farmed on hills without machinery in a different type of climate. She also could see the direct impact of climate change on people's livelihoods. She challenged us to think of how we might make changes to our lifestyle that could help others. How can we be stewards? How can we let go of our preconceived notions of how things "should be" in a Western world?

After the morning worship service, Megan continued by showing more pictures and answering questions from the congregation.



A memorable, meaningful and unique MCC gift to give this Christmas! Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern day Mennonite feeding station - your home! Get one for yourself and order more for family and friends. Hang it on the wall in your kitchen or dining room, display it on a shelf or use it as a serving tray! Remember the kitchen at your church, too. Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16" in diameter and 2" deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at <https://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray>.



December Congregational Ministries Project Submitted by Edie Tschetter

The Project Committee of Congregational Ministries has chosen Don & Sonja Waltner to be the recipients of our December Congregational Ministries funds. We normally have the Cookie Walk for such opportunities and often include the December project monies for the same cause. This year there will be no Cookie Walk so we ask that you give generously toward the December project. Make checks payable to HMC Congregational Ministries and place in Joyce's mailbox or mail them to her. Don and Sonja have experienced much these past months and incurred expenses along the way. We wish to help show our support by this gesture of love for them. Below is a short documentation of Don's medical journey.



Don experienced a massive brain bleed on the afternoon of April 25, 2020. He was airlifted from the hospital in Freeman to Sanford in Sioux Falls, SD where he underwent emergency surgery to remove the large blood clot that was pressing on his brain. He is was in a coma at Sanford for over a month. On June 18, he was transferred to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Omaha, NE. He continued to recover and improve there. On August 4 he was transferred to QLI, a skilled Rehabilitation facility in Omaha, where he received intensive therapy and October 30 was able to return to their home.

Keep them in your prayers as he continues with therapies in this healing process.

Christmas Memories

Submitted by Brigitta Hofer

The following individuals were asked, “Do you have a Christmas memory that is special to you? Or memories? Did you, or do you, have any family traditions at Christmas time?”

SHERRYL FRIESEN: Christmas Day is special to me because it is my birthday. When I was a child my Grandpa Peters would give me a new half dollar coin for my gift. I thought that was great because I was the only one that got money.

When Denise and Eric were young children we always tried to go to the Grandparents for Christmas, which was always a very good time. Now we usually open gifts on Christmas Eve when the kids come home from Norfolk. I love Christmas music so I listen to that a lot!



SHIRLEY HOFER: THE UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS

GUESTS: It was a very cold Christmas Eve. Delmer and I were newlyweds and were at his parent’s home with his family. We were all happy to be together in the warm living room, enjoying the beauty of the Christmas tree and looking forward to opening gifts and the repast of fruit and peanuts, which was traditional for Christmas Eve. Suddenly there was a pounding on the kitchen door. Delmer’s Mother was sitting closest to the kitchen so she got up to see who or what was at the door. We all assumed someone was having car trouble and needed help. Instead, it was two very cold, unkempt strangers with ragged clothes and shaggy

hair who probably had never owned a car or even driven one. Delmer’s Mother invited them to join our family in the living room and then she disappeared. We all tried our best to make the unexpected guests feel welcome. Fortunately, Delmer’s Mother remembered having bought two pair of socks for Delmer’s Father and he had not worn them yet. She quickly wrapped them up in pretty Christmas paper, tied them with bows and sneaked them under the Christmas tree. When it came time to open the gifts the strangers were surprised and happy that they would also receive a gift. They were very grateful for the needed socks. Our family was grateful that we had the opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with them. I will always remember the visitors of that night and my dear, sweet mother-in-law who taught me Christmas Joy!



PASTOR GENE: Our Christmas was filled with giving. Dad would have us help give all the children in our community coloring books, crayons, and Hershey's chocolate bars. Our church would give everyone that came to church the Sunday before Christmas a large Hershey's chocolate bar (I grew up very close to Hershey), and a large orange from Florida. I would almost always have my chocolate eaten before lunch. Grandpa would always go upstairs after our Christmas meal and return with a silver dollar for the grandchildren. The traditional Miller celebration food was fried oysters. Dad would buy a gallon of oysters and Mom would fry them. They were

the best! I haven't eaten oysters anywhere since she passed away. Her fried oysters were the best.

MARY RENSINK: Christmas Eve was special because all the aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents on my Dad's side would come to our house. We would have oyster soup for supper, in addition to sandwiches, relishes, and all kinds of goodies. Not really liking the soup, I ate lots of goodies! Coming from a large family, some of my siblings and I would put on a play in the basement for the adults. It was usually late before we opened presents. We liked to drag out the evening as long as we could because it was such a special time. My Mother was part Norwegian, and in keeping with her tradition we had lutefisk and lefsa on Christmas Day. There were wieners for those who couldn't eat it. When I was a child, we would have lutefisk and lefsa at Mom's Uncle and Aunt's home. I ate wieners because I wouldn't eat the fish stuff! We kept up that tradition when they passed away.





SHARON WALTNER: The one memory I have of a tradition Dad did with us every Christmas Eve is as follows: Dad would have us put out large serving bowls and in the morning our bowls would be filled with peanuts, nuts, and candy. None of us bothered eating it because we had plenty of those food items whenever we wanted it. Years later my Aunt Mary told me how every Christmas Eve they would put out large serving bowls, which would be filled with peanuts, nuts, and candy in the morning. It was the only time they ever got them. Each one would hide his treats in a well - hidden spot and then slowly eat a little of it each day. That's when I realized that Dad must have received the same treat when he was a child and treasured the memory and repeated it with his children. Dad ate most of my treat himself, as I didn't eat any of it.

A recent memory concerns my grand cat, Sunshine Rose. When Misty and her family came home for Christmas, she was just a kitten. Misty wanted a decorated tree, so we put one up. We were not able to convince Sunshine Rose that the tree was off-limits and took the tree down the next day. Sunshine is 8 years old now, so we will try a tree again this year in hopes that she may have lost interest in the shiny bulbs. My granddaughter, Mischa, has purchased all non-breakable ornaments!



JOLINE THOMAS - I would imagine if we were all to compare, we would find that many of our memories and traditions would be very similar or the same. Christmas Eve would be spent with my Dad's parents having a traditional meal of chili soup, oyster stew, and homemade goodies. Then my sister, Mom, and I would attend the late Eve services at church, some years being part of the service. After getting home each of us kids would lay a sock on the console to await filling.

Christmas Day would be spent with my Mom's parents enjoying the full holiday spread. When I think back on those years, it was the small little traditions that completed the holidays. We could look in our socks before going out to help with chores. It would hold an apple, orange, banana, some chocolates and hard candy along with a candy cane. Mom and Dad would milk, & we kids would do our barn chores. My sister & I would head for the house to start meal preparations while Mom finished milking. Throughout the morning Mom could be heard hollering from the kitchen for one of us to reach something from the top of the cupboard or do this, that, or the other thing. After dinner & dessert of Dad's favorite, pumpkin pie & my Grandma's homemade chocolate pie, we would gather in the living room to open gifts.

(Continued on next page)

The farm dog was allowed in the house to have his/her gift of canned dog food before being let back outside. I always got to play Santa crawling under the plastic ornament laden tree to retrieve and pass out the gifts. (I think the only time I missed was when I was pregnant with Jaden and this Santa couldn't make it under the tree.) Those ornaments appeared on the same artificial tree for many, many years. Each year we four kids would get a new board game. The gift tag would always read "From Santa". We would spend several hours over our school break playing the game. I remember that my Mom would always save the wrapping paper. She would brag that there was one particular piece that was over 30 years old. It just got smaller and smaller each year until it was no more. As we got older, my siblings and I would make a point of ripping some of the paper just so she couldn't save it anymore. Then she discovered gift bags. After the evening chores we would "graze" our way through the kitchen for supper.

Many of us remember getting a new outfit for Easter. Well, we would get something new for the school and church programs. Might be a new shirt, tie, or dress. My Mom usually sewed them. And quite often she would make and give new P.J.'s as a gift, even well into our adult years. I remember getting a doll one year with a complete wardrobe my Mom and sister had sewn. Then there was going to my Grandparents house in town before Christmas to decorate their green tinsel tree. I decorated that tree for many years while Grandma and Grandpa watched. That tinsel tree remains with one of my siblings. Then there was the string of jingle bells that hung on the porch door in my parent's house year-round. They let Mom know when we got home at night. We kids finally got smart and took them off and hid them. She resorted to leaving the kitchen light on after that. Last Christmas my sister gave me a set of my own jingle bells for my door. Maybe I should leave them up year-round because of Jaden. You think?

A new tradition I'm trying to establish is the Thomas Christmas Tree. I try and make it a reflection of us as a family. Last Christmas it was decorated with lights, fishing lures, bobbers, and gummy fish. Worked pretty well until I observed Jaden sitting by the tree snacking. "Just fishing, Mom."

Whether we celebrate time honored traditions or make new one's faith, family, and friends are always the best part of Christmas. As the holidays approach, we wish you health, memories to treasure and blessings abundant. Merry Christmas.

Gene Miller
submitted by Suzanne Koerner

Gene Miller has been the interim pastor at HMC since the end of July. Realizing that he will be with us for just one more month, and in an effort to get to know him better, I sat down with him to learn more about his history and how he came to be with us.

HMC is the 4th church Gene has pastored in his “retirement years.” Previously, he served in Bellwood, NE and Manhattan, KS, but his first church came about after a conversation over lunch at Bethesda with Tim Detweiler, who encouraged him to be the interim pastor in Des Moines. He was able to take a weekend course in Elkhart on transitional ministry. Gene answered the call, and within two weeks he began his ministry in Des Moines.

Gene and his wife, Candice, had come to live in Henderson in 2017 to be near his eldest son, Seth, and his family. Seth is the pastor of the Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, NE. Living only a block apart, Gene and Candice are able to spend precious time with their three young granddaughters.

Gene Miller grew up with five siblings on a farm near Lancaster, PA. Attending an old order Mennonite church, Gene remembers church services with men on one side, women on the other. His mother wore a head covering. Before he was born (1950’s), his father raised tobacco, a crop which provided ample returns, but is extremely labor intensive. One day a preacher came to talk with his father regarding the raising of tobacco and the church’s stance against the crop. His father’s conscience was convicted. Though he was allowed to sell his current crop in lieu of burning it, he started a housing development with the land and eventually built 1500 houses. The family also raised steers. Gene worked alongside his family building houses, and also helped other local tobacco farmers.

Gene attended Hempfield high school, was recruited to play basketball at Eastern Mennonite University, and obtained a degree in Phys Ed, but also took classes in History and Bible. He met Candice from Kidron, OH at EMU and they married in 1978. He landed his first job out of college at Sarasota Christian where he started an athletic program and served as the Athletic Director, coaching and teaching there. After 7 years, the Millers returned to Virginia where Gene attended EMS. He spent two years as executive director of Arbor Place in Lancaster, which started as a community center and became an outreach to Blacks and Hispanics. His time at Arbor Place continued to shape his faith and how he viewed the world. “Downtown Lancaster is a rough place,” Gene recalls. “It gave me a new perspective on what it is that makes people successful. It has nothing to do with race, but everything to do with following God’s standards.”

After two years, Gene and Candice returned to Sarasota, where he became the campus pastor, Bible teacher, principal—you name it. He had planned to look for a church to serve after a year, but was talked into becoming the Superintendent. Though Gene enjoyed his work in administration, his heart and passion remained in working closely with students. In all, they spent 26 years in Sarasota. When an opening for Superintendent for Central Christian in Kidron became available, the Millers took the opportunity to move to Ohio to take care of Candice’s mother, who suffered from a terminal lung disease in her final years. They took over payments for the family homestead and moved in with her. It would not be the last time the Millers moved to be near family. “Family means everything,” Gene admits. During their 8 years in Kidron, their younger son, Samuel, graduated from high school.

HMC is grateful for the ministry of Pastor Gene. He has quickly learned our names and has visited us on our farms. His unique delivery of sermons keeps us engaged and attentive on Sunday mornings. His devotionals encourage us to think deeply. Thank you, Gene! May God richly bless you as you depart from us in the near future.



The Marriage of Ross Hofer and Jeni Jacques

submitted by sister of the Groom,
Monica Clem

Ross Hofer (son of Vernon P. & Twyla Hofer) married Jeni Jacques in Bozeman, MT on October 17, 2020. As Ross's family, we gathered in Bozeman to celebrate their wedding and welcome Jeni into

the family.

Ross went to university in Bozeman for architecture and has lived in Bozeman and worked his time since graduation at Locati Architects. He has a wide circle of friends in Bozeman and met Jeni through mutual friends.

Ross and Jeni had one attendant each and their flower girl refers to Ross as "MY uncle Ross". Since Gallatin County has restricted gatherings, there was no reception, but guests to the wedding were invited to a "drive by" receiving line. Ross and Jeni stood under outdoor heaters (it had snowed on and off all day) and guests drove by to offer their congratulations.

Dad made the difficult decision to stay home, due to his risk categories for COVID-19. Jill Hofer graciously offered to come to the house and set up the livestream of the wedding service, so Dad could watch it in real time. We were able to call him following the ceremony, while we were in the receiving line, so he got to congratulate Ross and Jeni via telephone that evening. Many of Ross and Jeni's friends from across the country, and internationally, tuned into the livestream of the marriage service.

Church and faith are very important to Ross and Jeni, so their marriage service included a time of worship and Ross and Jeni partook of communion during the service.

We are delighted to welcome Jeni to the family and wish them many happy years together!



MDS Pine Ridge update

Duane Tieszen SDMDS, chairperson

When the National MDS project of building homes in Pine Ridge ended this past year, Region 3 MDS took on the project of building a much needed Volunteer/Emergency Operations Center at Pine Ridge. This center consists of a large new building housing a commercial kitchen, dining room, bunk rooms, shower/toilet area, and a gathering room in one part and the other part consists of a communications center, meeting area, and emergency vehicle storage. At the end of 2019 funds ran out and the project came to a stop. This year MDS received a grant for \$100,000.00 from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, a \$60,000.00 grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and \$5,000.00 from Menards as a rebate from the homes that were previously built in Pine Ridge. With these funds the building can be completed.

This month work again commenced with volunteers coming primarily from MDS Region 3 and the Elkhart/Goshen area. Roger and Bev Claassen from Nebraska and Lupe and Roxy from Bloomington, TX made substantial labor contributions. Lupe and Roxy lost their home in Hurricane Harvey. They purchased another home which burned to the ground in a fire. MDS helped build them a new home in Texas and they came to South Dakota to do a week of electrical work in the new Volunteer/EOC building in appreciation for what MDS has done for them.

This project should be finished this fall and can then be used by any volunteer group going to Pine Ridge and the local EMS system. A Big thank you goes to Region 3 MDS for spearheading this project which will help so many in the Pine Ridge area. Thank you to Mennonite congregations and other churches and individuals in this area for your donations to MDS.

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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.**