
THE COMMUNITY

Erb Street Mennonite Church



Easter

March 23, 2008

The Community seeks to promote greater familiarity among Erb Street members and adherents through articles of faith and life, and is published three times yearly.

Editorial Committee –
Ruth Jantzi – Co-Editor
Katherine Snyder – Co-Editor
Emily Kennel
Ross Kennel
Eleanor Epp-Stobbe

Erb Street Mennonite Church
131 Erb Street West,
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T7
Ph – 519-886-3570
Fax – 519-886-5625
e-mail – office@erbstchurch.ca

In 1851 Erb Street Church was established as the David Eby Congregation

Easter is

Jesus Christ, the cross, crucifixion, death, the grave, resurrection, new life, hope, faith, renewal



Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20, 2008). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people use to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Introducing – Tanya Dyck Steinmann & her family

Tanya: born in Southern Alberta, I was the eldest sister of two younger brothers. My father was a plumber by trade and my mother working in the library at a local college. Both of my parent's parents immigrated to Canada near the end of WWII and settled down in the town of Coaldale. My mom's parents were Russian Mennonite and my Dad's parents were Danzig Mennonite. I grew up with a very strong German identity and was very close to my extended family. I learned the importance of a firm handshake and to always look my elders in the eye. When my family was not working on our acreage, we headed to the mountains to camp, hike and cross-country ski.

Don: a small town boy, spent his time riding his bike around the streets of New Hamburg. Later his parents, Ray and Anna Steinmann moved their family to a small country property just outside of town where Don traded his peddle bike for a motorbike! Ray owned his own mechanic shop in Bright (ironically were we now live!) and Anna was teacher in a two room school house. Both parents were born of the Swiss Mennonite tradition. Going to church was an important value instilled in Don at a young age. He has wonderful memories of Hillcrest Mennonite Church and enjoyed getting involved in church life.

How did this prairie girl meet this good Mennonite boy from Ontario? Well you might say that we met each other halfway... at Canadian Mennonite Bible College (or as we joke "Bridal" College). Since then we have enjoyed 12 years of married life adventure. We have backpacked through Southern Europe, hiking to the top of Mount Olympus in Greece. We've crisscrossed the country in a 1970 VW van and made it all

the way to Gros Morne National Park, Newfoundland. We've had numerous opportunities for meaningful work – some of our biggest rewards and challenges came from being Camp Directors at Camp Valaqua in Alberta.

Now it seems we have come full circle. We have found a farm to call home where we are growing three spunky daughters: Katarina (age 8), Ruby (4) and Johanna (age 2). We spend much of our free time enjoying farm life. Don likes moving dirt around with our old tractor and I enjoy digging in the dirt, planting bulbs and dividing perennials. Recently we added a new pony to our farm animal family! When we are not working on our farm, we spend time with cherished friends or head to Ontario's hills to hike, camp and canoe. As for meaningful work we continue to be blessed. Don is teaching Technology at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and I have found my way into the Erb Street community as your Interim Pastor.



Johanna, Ruby, Don, Katarina & Tanya

Hope in Difficult Times

– Carol E. Bauman

One year ago, shortly after my 70th birthday, I was diagnosed with breast cancer which was detected on a mammogram. Even though my Mother had breast cancer in her 80's, because of her age, I never thought I needed to be concerned about cancer.

However, I remember telling family and friends, 15 to 20 years ago, while nursing at Heritage House Nursing Home, that if I ever had breast cancer, I would choose to have a bilateral mastectomy. This was based on my Mother's experience, as well as a resident at the nursing home.



After reviewing my mammogram report, my family physician agreed with my decision, but when I told my surgeon of my wishes, he was aghast because, as he stated, the cancer was so very early and tiny. He did ask me to seriously reconsider my decision and contact him in a few days, which I did. I am, and will be forever grateful to him for honoring my wishes.

I am thankful that Mel and Lorraine accompanied me to my doctors' visits so that we could discuss what we thought we heard. The Day surgery went well and Mel drove me home 7 hours later. Registered nurses visited regularly and were excellent.

Our family, friends and church community were very supportive with delicious food, flowers, prayers, emails, cards and phone calls. Eleanor Epp-Stobbe's visits and phone calls were very encouraging.

Exercising at the gym and practicing Qi Gong for many years certainly aided in my recovery as did the University of Waterloo Well-Fit Program in which participants (cancer patients) meet twice a week to carry out their exercise program under the supervision of professional certified fitness staff. This 12 week program was excellent and I was so thankful to be referred by my oncologist.

It is with gratitude that I can report that surgery was the only treatment required--no radiation or chemo.

I am thankful to be blessed with a positive attitude and inner strength which has helped me through this difficult time.

I cannot emphasize sufficiently the importance of early detection of breast cancer, so, please, women have regular mammograms!!

* * *

From the Church Library

– Leonora Paetkau

Walking in a relaxed manner: life lessons from the Camino by Joyce Rupp provides insights for our daily life journey. These inspirational reflections are derived from a 37-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, a 450 mile journey. At 60 years of age, Rupp, a Catholic sister, took this trek with her close friend and retired priest, Tom Pfeffer.

In 25 chapters she frames this walking trek within a series of thematic life lessons that allows the reader to relate to her experiences. These topics include becoming a pilgrim, embracing beauty, experiencing homelessness, looking for unannounced angels and being humbled by weakness. Two of Rupp's main points from the pilgrimage are dealing with the unknown and living in the now by letting go of wants and expectations.

For those planning such a pilgrimage, the author provides practical tips such as how to avoid blisters and what to carry in a backpack. Most importantly, she advises that humour and laughter help survive setbacks and surprises.

These inspirational chapters share hardships and blessings. Her reflections transform the mundane experiences into sacred moments. I strongly recommend this inspiring read!

First Signs of Spring

– Bob Wildfong

Nothing says spring-time like the sight of the first flowers in the garden. The first snowdrops, scilla, and



crocus sometimes appear even before most of the songbirds return; even when there is still snow on the ground. The colours appear almost magically, surprising me with their promise of new life after the long, cold winter.

The first flowers appear so early because they're actually fully-formed inside their bulbs, even before the ground thaws. Inside every tulip and daffodil bulb is a tiny flower, ready to sprout and bloom when the time is right. You can cut one open in the fall and see for yourself, but take my word for it and plant it instead! In the center of the bulb, near the bottom, there is a miniature flower, just the same shape as the fully-grown flower, but a thousandth of the size. It sleeps all winter long, then pushes its leaves up through the tip of the bulb when the ground thaws, gathering the warm rays of the sun to give it energy to grow, and finally bursts up, expanding into a single beautiful blossom. As long as the ground is soft, and the sun is shining, that little flower will grow, and produce fragrance to attract the wakening spring bees. The leaves remain long enough to grow another flower inside the bulb. Then they fade and disappear by mid-summer, leaving the next tiny flower to sleep inside the bulb until the following spring.

Sometimes people ask me what to do if their bulbs sprout too soon. Little green shoots appear when the ground thaws, but what if cold weather freezes them again? Not to worry. The early shoots are just the tips of the first leaves. If they freeze, or even if they're broken off, that's no more damaging than snipping off the outside inch of the lowest leaves. Bulbs grow from the bottom, like grass, so the tops of the shoots are expendable. The little flower inside is safe.

I like to plant a variety of bulbs, with different seasons of bloom. Each emerges when the ground reaches a certain temperature, so an early melt usually means early crocuses, and a chilly April usually means late tulips. But different varieties

bloom at different times, so you can plant early-blooming yellow tulips, mid-blooming orange tulips, and late-blooming red tulips, then watch your garden gradually change colour from April through May. Colour contrasts are also attractive, especially after a long, gray winter. Purple hyacinths bring out an extra brightness in yellow daffodils, and orange tulips never look brighter than they do against a background understory of lavender Muscari.

Also remember that each bulb usually produces only one flower. For a pleasing look, plant four to six bulbs in a circle as wide as your hand. They will bloom as a cluster, which looks much more natural than single flowers spaced further apart. Check the label for specific planting instructions, because the depth matters. But if you don't have instructions, there is a simple rule of thumb that works nearly every time: just dig the planting hole three times the width of the bulb.

Of course, spring bulbs are planted in the fall. So why does this advice matter now, in spring? Because gardening is a year-round activity. Spring is the best time to think about planting bulbs, though you'll actually plant them much later. Watch your flowerbeds bloom throughout the spring and early summer, see where and when you'd like to see an extra touch of colour, and write it down. If you follow your own advice in October, you'll be thankful next spring when you see the results.

* * *

Favourite Easter Recipe Easter or Egg Cheese

- Reta Bearinger, Bonnie Gingrich, Lucille Weber

2 quarts sweet milk
1 cup buttermilk or sour milk
1 tsp salt
½ tsp sugar
4 eggs

Bring sweet milk to boiling point. Beat eggs slightly and add sour milk, salt and sugar. Beat again. Pour slowly into hot sweet milk. Let it come just barely to boiling point until it starts to separate. Remove from heat and let stand a few minutes. Pour into cheesecloth bag until well drained and set. Slice and serve with maple syrup.

A Journey of Hope

– Ken Jantzi

Every journey begins with a first step. Some journeys are planned to the last detail, with a very predictable path and outcome. Others come suddenly, as a surprise, with an unclear path, and an uncertain or unknown outcome. My journey started suddenly and seemingly quite innocently with a routine May 31st medical examination – nothing new, nothing of concern. I was good to go for another couple of years, at least that's what I thought. I left the doctor's office with a stool sample kit, promising to return the samples to the lab. What a shock to receive an unexpected call from the doctor's office a few weeks later which disclosed one of the samples tested positive for blood occult.



Thus the stage was set and the journey began. Thankfully for Ruth and me, it was an unfamiliar journey. It was a journey that we had no idea of the route, the stops, the destination, or the persons that would guide and assist us, and others we would meet along the way. Fortunately, we had excellent professionals to guide us on the journey, and many friends supporting us with their prayers and concerns, walking along with us.

An appointment was set up with a gastrointestinal specialist who performed a colonoscopy in late October. He was unable to complete the colonoscopy, and a colongraphy or CAT Scan was scheduled two days later. Two weeks later, the specialist's examination determined the presence of a large tumor in the colon. His advised treatment was surgical removal of the tumor, and we were assured he would assign us to a very good surgeon. On November 26th we had a consultation with the surgeon and were informed that surgery was scheduled for December 3rd at Grand River Hospital. We were gently being conditioned to expect colon cancer. The surgeon also indicated there were no beds available, and unless the hospital released a bed, surgery would be cancelled. For the surgeon, this was NOT an option! The surgeon became our advocate, pushing the hospital to obtain a bed so my emergency surgery could proceed. By some miracle, a bed became available and surgery went ahead as

scheduled removing a section of bowel including the tumor, as well as eleven lymph nodes.

The results of the pathology report were delayed due to Christmas and New Year holidays, and a well deserved vacation for the extremely busy surgeon. During this period of waiting, I went about learning whatever I could about colon cancer, and preparing a list of questions to be asked. In the process I rediscovered how miraculously and wonderfully our bodies are made and function. Seven weeks after surgery, we received the wonderful news that the tumor, as well as the lymph nodes were all benign. There was NO evidence of cancer, and therefore NO further treatment was required! What better news could we receive! The pathology report found I had a congenital condition that caused inflammation and developed into a tumor.

We want to thank all those who walked alongside us on our unknown journey, offering hope, support, meals, cards, phone calls, and many prayers. Thanks to Pastor Eleanor for her numerous pastoral calls and visits. Thanks also to Dr. John Bender, ND, and Don Snyder for your help in understanding medical names and terms. All were needed and very much appreciated. They all contributed something positive and gave hope – hope for new life, hope in difficult times. We have been given a second chance at life!

And may I also give you a gentle reminder? Have a regular medical examination, and if it includes getting a stool sample kit, *please* use it and return to the lab! It could save your life!

* * *

Did you Know?

The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).

The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

Paska – Easter Bread – Hildegard Regier

2 cups milk
15 eggs
1 cup cream
1 cup butter
1½ cups sugar
2 pkgs yeast
2 tsp each vanilla & lemon extract
½ tsp almond extract
Rind of 1 lemon, finely grated
1 Tbsp ground cardamom
2 tsp salt
6 to 8 cups flour or more
Margarine for hands

Bring milk and cream to a boil, remove, cool slightly. Add sugar, well beaten eggs, melted butter, extracts and spice. Add flour (6 to 8 cups) with yeast and salt to make a sponge. Allow to rise till double. Stir well, add enough flour to make a soft dough – add just enough flour so it doesn't stick to fingers – rubbing hands with margarine helps to be able to knead it. Let rise in warm place till double in bulk. Punch down and let rest about 1/2 hour. Shape into balls and put on well greased containers – pie plates, coffee tins, muffin tins, or as buns on large cookie sheets. Allow to rise till double. Bake at 300° till golden colour. Decorate with white butter icing and top with coloured sprinkles.

White Butter Icing

½ cup butter or margarine (uncoloured or light coloured)
2 cups icing sugar
1 tsp vanilla
Few drops almond flavouring.

Cream butter, add icing sugar and flavourings. Mix to spreading consistency. Add small amount of water if necessary. Spread on paska and decorate. The bright white icing symbolized purity.

Recipes from 150th Anniversary Cookbook Erb Street Mennonite Church.

What Do You Think of When You Hear “Easter?”

Emily Young: Springtime!

Howard Gimbel: At my age, thoughts of the real Easter and the Resurrection.

John Kessler: Decorated eggs and lots of chocolate!

Tom Swartzentruber: Sunrise services and breakfasts at church, as well as the empty tomb and the cross.

Doreen Price: A wonderful time of the year! So beautiful it is difficult to express such a feeling of joy.

Jenny Gingrich: Children waving palm branches walking down the aisle.

Matthew Bailey-Dick: The image of the Grand River at sunrise where my church used to gather for Easter mornings.

Amarah Epp-Stobbe: Paska! (Easter bread.)

Kay Weber: Bare feet in Virginia because we were allowed to go barefoot once it was Easter time.

Kevin Martin: Easter eggs decorated with zigzags, and chocolate of course!

Donna Snyder: Spring and new life!

Vera Good: Easter lilies and sunrise services.

Eileen Kennel: Communion and its special significance at this time of the year.

Arnie Dyck: Due to my Russian Mennonite culture I think of paska with white icing and sprinkles. Also, my kids having Easter egg hunts (even as adults.)

Merv Gingrich: Easter egg hunts as a child.

* * *

How is the Date for Easter Chosen?

2008 is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or older!). And non of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!



Births



- Oliver Roger Erb January 17, 2008
(David Erb & Leanne Baer)
- Alia Marie Griffioen March 15, 2008
(Mark & Stephanie Griffieon)



Engagements



- Rebecca Fast & Paul Bender Shetler –
July, 2008
- Becky Paetkau & Greg Oulahen –
August, 2008
- Angie Paetkau & Tyler Carlson –
August, 2008
- Andrew Duke & Bojana Marjanovic –
September, 2008
- Raphael Kanai & Michele Smith –
October, 2008
- Dan Swartzentruber & Kathleen Wonnacott –
January, 2009
- Allan Rogalsky & Christine Steele –
May, 2009



Anniversaries



60+

- Joseph & Elizabeth Weber June 23, 1945
- George & Vera Weber February 2, 1946
- Howard & Carol Gimbel June 8, 1946
- Howard & Lucille Weber April 5, 1947

50th

- Mel & Carol Bauman March 7, 1958

40th

- Ed & Katharina Hiebert March 10, 1968

30th

- David & Ada Hunsberger March 10, 1978
- David & Mary Haus May 6, 1978



Birthdays



90+

- Margaret Good February 11, 1912
- Edna Ruibal May 26, 1913
- Mable Brubacher January 13, 1916
- Adell Bauman April 26, 1916



In Memoriam



- Milton Good June 20, 1911 - March 3, 2008



Awards



Congratulations to Shirley Lichti. As many of you know, in addition to running Marketing Magic, she also teaches marketing at Wilfrid Laurier University. She recently won the Leadership in Faculty Teaching award, a new provincial government initiative developed to recognize and encourage teaching excellence. The award provides winners with \$20,000 over two years.

The award criteria included the ability to stimulate students to think critically; demonstrated enthusiasm for and innovation in teaching; fostering development of students and their intellectual growth; and motivating students to exceed their own expectations.

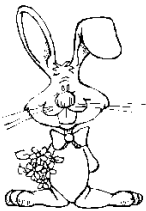
The ministry website noted that “Shirley Lichti is a superb instructor who embraces innovative teaching methods that bring a practical, real-world marketing experience to her students. She helps students outside of class hours, coaching them in their job search, preparing for competitions, speaking at student conferences and helping them start new business ventures. Shirley Lichti's passionate attitude and free spirit truly engages students in a curriculum that is often theoretical and abstract.”

A special reception was held at Wilfrid Laurier University in late November to recognize award winners.

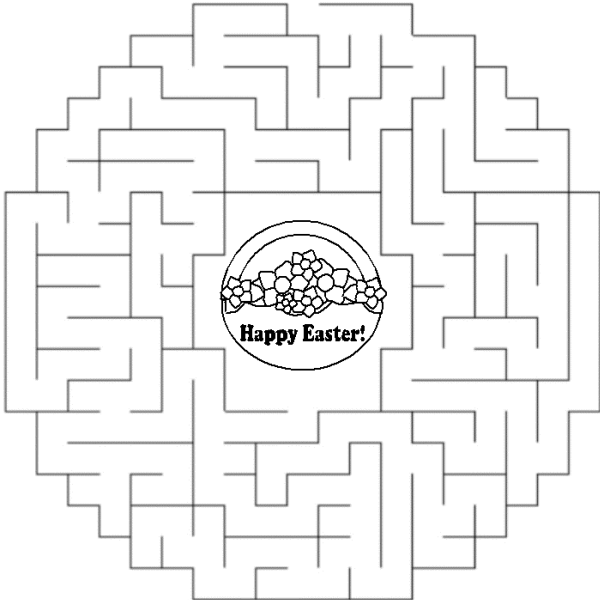
More recently, Shirley was nominated and advanced to the semi-finals for TVO's Best Lecturer Competition, which looks for teachers who engage their listeners with passion, flair and clarity, and who convey their knowledge with genuine conviction. The competition, which is still in progress, will announce its winner in April.

KID'S CORNER

Happy
Easter!



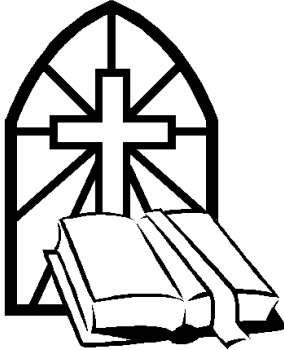
Help the Easter Bunny find his basket.



Easter Word Search

T C E R R U S E R C
 S A L V A T I O N R
 C R U C I F I E D O
 N W O R C J E S U S
 G A Q G L O G H E S

- CROSS
- CROWN
- CRUCIFIED
- JESUS
- RESURRECT
- SALVATION



Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Easter Anagram

Word List: apostles, Christ, cross, crucifixion, Jesus, nailed, resurrection, Romans, savior, thorns



- a d e i l n _____
- a e l o p s s t _____
- a i o r s v _____
- a m n o r s _____
- c c f i i n o r u x _____
- c e i n o r r r s t u _____
- e j s s u _____
- h n o r s t _____
- i c h t s r _____
- s c o r s _____

Decorate your own Easter egg

