

# NEWSLETTER

## Rest in Peace....

by Ruth Carrasco

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Wisdom for Everyday Life	2
In Loving Memory	2
LT Highlights	3
ELC News	3



This newsletter belongs to all of us. Your input is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to submit articles to the editor.

Editor: Judy Nguyen

### Mission Statement

*As we encounter God's heart of love, our hearts are made new by God's Spirit. We invite people to experience Christ's love, welcoming each one into a caring fellowship, serving Christ with our gifts and resources.*

It was 1984. The few remaining male members of the "Red Brick Mennonite Church" tore down the church building with their own hands. Sunday morning attendance had dwindled to ten; and of the members who remained, most were in their senior years. The church appeared to have died.

By closing date, the final pastor of the little church had been there for more than 40 years, sustaining his family by farming, occasionally receiving a monetary gift from a member. His sermons were not fancy, but he did his best to faithfully preach and teach the Word. Others members in the congregation also did their utmost to impart the true Word of God as Sunday school teachers; one lady took it upon herself to occasionally have activities "just for the youth".

During the church's last several decades, the few teens had sought to and had become involved with the

church, wanting to give the services some variety and "life" with their youthful energy. They were allowed to participate as Sunday School teachers, S.S. superintendents and choristers there at the "Red Brick Mennonite Church". But most of those teens later left the area. Had the church failed?

Those "teens" are now in Virginia, Indiana, California, Illinois and Pennsylvania as well as other states. Many of them are serving in leadership positions in their present churches, have "fleshed out the Gospel" as trucker, teacher, postal worker, pastor, nurse, farmer and factory worker, and have influenced their children to also become followers of Christ. Did that tiny Illinois church die? I think not.

# WISDOM FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

BY PAUL MARTIN

## PSALM 119

### VV 07–104

#### OH, HOW I LOVE YOUR LAW

O how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. (v 97)

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth (v103).

In the intervening verses between the two quoted above the psalmist makes statements about his dedicated meditation on the laws of the Lord making him more insightful than his teachers, giving him more understanding than his elders, and making him wiser than his enemies.

At first it would seem he is bragging; but giving a closer look we perceive he is focusing on two factors—meditation and obedience.

These factors are what contribute to and influence the outcome of his dedicated life. They give him an advantage and allow him to have insights and understanding above and beyond his teachers and elders.

This advantage is available for us also, if we dedicate ourselves to meditate upon the wisdom contained in the law of the Lord, and loyally follow in its precepts. There we too can find His words tasting

sweeter than honey in our mouths and lead us to find joy in our salvation.

## PRAYER

Lord forgive us for not taking the time to truly meditate on what is right and good as taught in your word; and trying to succeed in our spiritual journey by just “hacking it” on our own worldly wisdom. Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord, to see and understand the higher wisdom your word teaches. Give us the wisdom to follow wherever you lead us today. AMEN

## IN LOVING MEMORY

*Remembering those in our church family  
who went to be with our Lord  
in a previous April.*



### James Martin

April 5, 1980

### Martha Sweigart

April 3, 1981

### Martin S. Sensenig

April 25, 1982

### Susanne Martin

April 4, 1990

### Nora Lichtry

April 18, 1991

### C. Nevin Miller

April 19, 1993

### Carl Sauder

April 25, 1998

### Amos Mulf

April 9, 2005

### Ivan Troxel

April 16, 2005

### Etta Musser

April 28, 2008

### Esther Good

April 13, 2013

# LT HIGHLIGHTS

BY JENN ESBENSHADE

**Spanish Mennonite** - A committee from both NHMC and Spanish Mennonite have met to begin conversation on continuing a relationship together. LT agreed to continue the conversation and explore further. The next step is presenting this to the congregation and having dialogue together on April 13.

**Search Committee Update**  
- The search committee

has met with three possible candidates and has three more scheduled. There will be a second interview with one or two candidates. By the end of May or beginning of June a candidate will be presented to the congregation for affirmation.

**Intergenerational House Fellowships** - Groups will be formed according to interest and across genera-

tional lines. These groups will meet 3-4 times with a topic of discussion. A fellowship meal will be held on April 13 to have a kick-off for the house fellowships.

**Congregational Life** - One issue to keep in front of us is how to have a healthy situation here at NHMC to have some closure from what happened so we can process other events that are currently

happening. This will be done with joint Sunday School times as well as possible open times for discussion.

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

BY PEG JACKSON

Greetings from the Early Learning Center. Spring has arrived and we are so happy to be outside and enjoy the warm weather. Spring is a time to have the children learn about new life. They can watch the flowers bloom, birds hatch, trees get leaves, and grass turn green. We also are getting ready for new life as we will celebrate the "Week of the Young Child" in April and have filled our incubator with eggs that are due to hatch on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The following week will be Easter and instead of merely coloring eggs this Easter, why not use the eggs to tell the story of God's love and forgiveness?

- Before you hide the eggs or put them in baskets, encircle each one with a colored strip of paper (or place the strip inside plastic eggs) that tells one small part of the Easter story. When the eggs have been found, the children must unscramble

the story and put it in the right order.

Instead of decorating the eggs with dye, or in addition to dying them, write one attribute of Jesus on each egg. You can do this by writing on the egg with a crayon before you put it in the dye. If you are using plastic eggs, you can write with a permanent marker or paint pen.

If any of you have other suggestions please feel free to let us know. Easter is one of the times of the year that children have a hard time understanding what the big word resurrection means.

Continue to pray for safety for the children as they play outside. Also pray for Jade, Andrew, Aubri, and Drew Tibbins as they get ready to be missionaries in Guatemala starting in July.

Jade is the administrative assistant for the center and Aubri and Drew attend the center. Blessing Peggy



