

NEWSLETTER

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

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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.



In mid-April a year ago, our daughter Rachel was standing two blocks from the finish line at the Boston Marathon when she heard two bombs explode. Because we were out of the country, we did not know about it until the next day and soon got her email that she was fine. When we visited her a week later, she showed us where she had been, we walked to the finish line and saw a substantial impromptu memorial evolving. Running shoes, shirts and signs adorned a fence erected for the occasion. The mood was subdued.

Yet on the other side of the grass square was a church, where a large group of people stood for a photo after a wedding. They were happy, positive – life goes on. As I sit here reflecting on these events, the race is again being run by even more people who would not be stopped by tragedy. Five thousand people who could not finish last year are returning, not giving up. They've been preparing by running alone and with friends, now 32 thousand people running 26.2 miles.

It is not easy to keep going after something happens to divert plans, especially something over which you have no control. Some people are able to get going again right away, while others tend to reflect a bit before they have the strength or will to continue. If we are able to move on, it is often because we choose to move on together.

New Holland Mennonite Church may not be inclined to enter a marathon, but life as a congregation is somewhat

like that. Commitment, practice, companionship – all are part of the race we run. We also have to get back on the road when the race is interrupted. We might be encouraged by Paul, who said, “my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:24)

We might be spurred by those who run with us, in spite of discouragement, toward the sense that we are living God’s will and that the race is ultimately very satisfying. We may also be challenged by those who have gone before us. I often follow the suggestion of the Mennonite Minister’s Manual and read this at a graveside ceremony, to highlight the task we are left with:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Together we can find strength, courage, and the right pace.

by Wayne Speigle

WISDOM FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

BY PAUL MARTIN

PSALM 119

VV 105–112

LIGHT UPON THE WAY

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path (v 105)

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart (v 111)

My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end (v 112)

The opening and closing verses (105&112) of this section of the psalm indicate the deep commitment of the psalm writer to the words of the Lord; and his dedication to follow and live by them to

the very end of his life.

A lamp carried outside to light the way may only light the way a short few steps ahead. So it oft times is with the word of the Lord, requiring us to go back to the word frequently for guidance on our life's journey. We must set our hearts on keeping on the path the word illuminates before us always. If we do not we will eventually lose our way.

The psalmist is apparently satisfied, with the light and guidance the word provides, to proceed step by step to the completion of his life's journey. We

would do well to do the same and not complain or let ourselves be frustrated because we cannot see the end of our life's path-way. And then we too will find his statutes to be the joy of our hearts forever (v 111).

PRAYER

Lord, may we be faithful in committing our life's journey to be lighted step by step, open to the word of the Lord and led by the Holy Spirit. AMEN

IN LOVING MEMORY

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



Mabel Weaver

May 15, 1982

Martin Lichty

May 8, 1996

Myrtle E. McGinnis

May 20, 2002

Alice Newswanger

May 30, 2006

Mildred M. Campbell

May 9, 2010

Helen Groff

May 1, 2011

Elizabeth Martin

May 31, 2012

LT HIGHLIGHTS

BY JENN ESBENSHADE

Worship Service – There is a concern about the amount of responsibilities that just a few are carrying for each worship service. The more people we can involve in the service the better. The worship committee will be meeting to discuss this further.

Spanish/English Church Relationship Discussion – The LT finalized plans for the Sunday discussion on the continuing relationship with NHMC and Spanish Mennonite. The meeting will be a

time to explore together and gather ideas. The meeting itself was very encouraging and the congregation is willing to continue to pursue ways we can keep working with Spanish Mennonite, including possibly sharing facilities. Spanish Mennonite will now meet to discern as a congregation their next steps.

Pastoral Search Update – The committee has met with seven different candidates. The search committee presented their final candidate to

the LT for their approval. The LT unanimously confirmed the candidate and agreed to present her on Sunday, May 2.

Membership Role Organization – A letter will be sent to those who are moving out of the active membership to the inactive. The letters

EARLY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

BY PEG JACKSON

Greetings from the Early Learning Center. Warm weather and spring are here. There are some new faces around the center and we are excited about having them with us. Wanda Coleman has been hired as the new center Director, Stephanie Arbelaez the new administrative assistant and Amie Bathurst as the new cook. I am thankful that God has given us these wonderful people to work here at the center. Change is never easy. However I feel that it can be a good thing to have new ideas and new inspiration for the center and all the children.

We are looking forward to our Graduation Day for our children on May 18. Everyone has been practicing there songs for the big day. Please come and join us and visit our center open house after the program. Just a reminder we are still planning to have our Car Cruise, Chicken BBQ, and Yard Sale fundraiser on June 13 & 14.

April has been filled with the children learning about spring and how neat it is to have new life spring for something that looks brown and dead. It is fun to see their faces when the seed they plant start to come up.

Please continue to pray for the center as we train new staff and also for safety for the children as we spend more time outside. I look to this Bible verse in this time of change. **Proverbs 3:6** "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Blessings Peggy



