

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
OF REEDLEY  
**CHURCH NEWS**



VOX SIMONIS

*"The Voice of Menno Simons"*

August-September 2011  
Volume 55, Issue 4

The Vox Simonis is published bi-monthly. The Vox Simonis is designed to inform the FMC Congregation and friends of the congregation of "God's work" through the individuals, families, church groups, and the greater community.

*"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."*

*Mark 12:29-31*

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Individual submissions are welcome. Please bring contributions to the church office. You may also email submissions to [fmcreedley@juno.com](mailto:fmcreedley@juno.com)

You may now read this newsletter on our website at: [www.fmcreedley.org/Worship/Newsletters](http://www.fmcreedley.org/Worship/Newsletters)

### **WEB SITE INFORMATION**

First Mennonite Church now has a website on the internet.

This publication may be viewed on our website at:

[www.fmcreedley.org](http://www.fmcreedley.org)

You may email the church office at:

[fmcreedley@juno.com](mailto:fmcreedley@juno.com)

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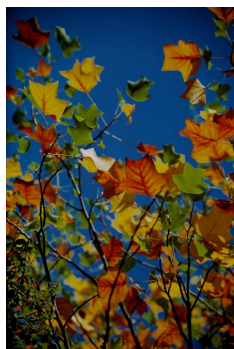
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*Submissions are accepted and are used by discretion of the editor.*

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# REFLECTIONS

## FROM STEVE PENNER

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### Mennonite Church USA Priorities

At the recent Mennonite Church USA Convention in Pittsburgh a significant amount of delegate time was given to considering a long paper entitled “Desiring God’s Coming Kingdom: a Missional Vision and purposeful Plan for Mennonite Church USA.” The document quickly became known as “the purposeful plan.” The document was framed around the questions “who is God calling us to become as a people?”; “Where is God calling us to go?”; and “what are the signposts that we are on the right path?”

The paper, which the 800 plus delegates agreed to let become the centerpiece of our eighteen hours of delegate deliberation, articulates what our leadership board and staff believe ought to be the seven most important priorities of Mennonite Church USA into the coming years. Prior to this convention we functioned as a denomination with four major priorities: leadership development, holistic witness, anti-racism, and church-to-church relations.

But now we live with seven, which incorporate and build upon the four of the past years. The big seven are: Christian formation, Christian community, Holistic Christian witness, Stewardship, Leadership development, Intercultural transformation, and Church-to-Church relationships.

There is room for every congregation within Mennonite Church USA, and every individual as well, to find a way of fitting within our denomination’s sense of what is most important.

Matters of coming to faith and practicing discipleship from an Anabaptist perspective fit within Christian formation. A concern for the practice of spiritual disciplines and nurturing a love for scriptures and vocational call also are matters of Christian formation.

Christian community includes everything from our worship life together to the practice of hospitality to growing our willingness to agree and disagree in love.

Holistic witness involves sharing God’s good news in word and deed by seeking to reproduce communities of faith while striving for peace and justice as an expression of God’s reign in our lives and the world.

Stewardship concerns itself with the whole of our lives, everything from creation care to nurturing and encouraging healthy life-styles.

Leadership development involves empowering, equipping and supporting people within our congregations. We want to develop leaders at all levels of our church life.

Intercultural transformation is where our commitment to become anti-racist communities of faith is now lodged. We desire to dismantle racism at the personal and systemic levels.

We practice Church-to-Church relationships as a denomination as we engage other communities of faith within our Anabaptist family and outside of it. As a denomination we are particularly concerned to remain in close fellowship with our sister denomination to the north, Mennonite Church Canada.

An obvious question I hope to give thought to in the coming months is this one: how do our denominational priorities play out in our own sense of mission and calling in Reedley?

# THOUGHTS...

by Barbara Ewy

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## Vacation Bible School Report 2011

On the first evening of Vacation Bible School I walked into the preschool class while they were enjoying their snack of finger foods: crackers, fruit, and vegetables such as carrot chips and broccoli. I knew the crackers would be popular. I suspected that the children would enjoy the fruit and carrot chips. To my great surprise I heard a student ask, "May I have some more broccoli please?"

**Taste and See: God is Good** was the theme for Vacation Bible School, held June 20 to 24, 2011. Food played an important role and our daily snacks were connected to the Bible lessons we studied. Daily themes included: Our food comes from God; God provides food for the hungry; We share what we have; We remember God's saving acts with food (Passover and the Last Supper); and God invites everyone to the feast.

Each evening students participated in a time of worship and three response centers: Bible, Creative and Active. Our worship time included music, scripture, memory verses, and a drama based on the day's Bible story. These included creation and the parable of the sower, manna and quail in the wilderness, the widow and son who fed Elijah with flour and oil that didn't run out, Jesus' celebration of Passover/Last Supper with the disciples, and the parable of the great banquet. Dramas were set in the Kingdom Café where the waiter welcomed a variety of characters during the week, talking with them about food and faith. Actors and actresses included Peter Boldt and Baldemar Ambriz as the waiter, Alex Boldt, Maritza and Yessica Ambriz, Aidan Zimmerman, Barbara Ewy, and Mario and Manuel Saucedo. On the final night participants were brought on stage from the audience. We also enjoyed watching film clips each evening showing the previous days activities.

Classroom teachers led the Bible response time in their classrooms. Students received a book *Soul Snacks* with puzzles and other written response activities. Active response focused on games and simulation activities related to each day's lessons. Creative response included snacks, a "Cooking with Manna" activity, the story *Stone Soup*, and craft activities using seeds, decorating "communion" cups, making birdseed feeders, and celebrating together around the table.

The early childhood class participated with the others in worship but was self contained for the rest of the evening. They also received student booklets and heard the Bible stories told at their own level. Special activities included stringing wooden beads and making pretzels from frozen bread dough.

Our offering project this year supported Mennonite Mission Network and the church in China, providing money for Sunday schools and teacher training. During the week we collected \$42.04. Attendance ranged from a low of twenty students the first night to a high of 34 students. An outbreak of stomach flu during the week brought our numbers down from what they could have been.

Staff this year included the following:

Director: Barbara Ewy

Preschool Teachers: Nohelly Hernandez, Liz Solian, Ligia Franco Duran

Teacher Kind.-Grade 2: Laura Penner; assistant Cathy Ratmeyer

Teacher Grades 3-5: Barbara Boldt

Teacher Grades 6-8: Margie Mireles

Worship Leaders: Armando Lara and Katrina Mireles

Music Leaders: Ro Linscheid and Christy Zimmerman

Photo/Video: Yajaira Lara.

Assistants: Xavier Bonilla, Leonard Mireles

Creative Response Team: Maritza Ambriz, Yessica Ambriz, Ruth Buxman, Alan and Barbara Ewy, Edith Montano, Glenna Penner; assisted by parents and other adults

Active Response Team: Peter Boldt, Andy Ewy, Alex Boldt, Nick Boldt

We did have an exciting and fun week together!

## Events in our FMC Family and Beyond~~~

- Don and Ele Friesen and their family are spending time in Mendocino this summer.
- AJ Salyers and grandfather Irv Isaak are both volunteer coaches for the Reedley High School freshmen football team.
- Yessica and Maritsa Ambriz are interviewed on the front page of a recent *Mennonite Weekly Review*.
- Larry and Gail Harder take care of their grand-children on Thursdays.
- Zak Blake will have a great schedule during the Fall semester at Reedley College.
- Alex Boldt is going to get his EMT training.
- Noemi, Nohelly, and Nadia Hernandez are spending time with family in Mexico this summer. They left on Sunday evening, July 17, a day after Nohelly returned from Pittsburgh.
- Juan Montes and Steve Penner presented a workshop at the Pittsburgh 2011 Mennonite Church USA Convention called "Becoming a Multicultural Church: Mixing Challenges, Opportunities and Beauty." Somewhere between 55 and 60 people attended the workshop.
- Baldemar Ambriz will play on the Reedley High School freshmen football team. He's a defensive back and a tight end.
- Caught in the act of gardening: Jose Mireles has lots of vegetables growing in his garden, soybeans, corn, tomatoes and so much more.
- Doris Reimer flew to Chicago, IL. on Wed July 6 for a two week visit with her daughter Carolyn and husband Larry Vaughn and on to Madison, Wi. to visit granddaughter Leah Vaughn Zepeda, husband Javier Zepeda and great granddaughter Karina.
- Paul Reimer had the time of his life on his recent solo motorcycle trip to Utah.
- In a recent conversation about great quarterbacks in Reedley High School history the first name mentioned was Ron Siebert.
- Larry Harder remembers running in the vicinity of Pete Romero.
- Rusty Moyer is back on his bike again. In spite of all the adversity he has faced he is putting in big-time miles.
- Mike Linscheid began his one year MCC SALT adventure by flying to Pennsylvania for orientation on July 31. Mike will be serving in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
- Wayne and Marty Zimmerman's grand-daughter Keila will also be serving with MCC SALT. Keila will be in Honduras as well, serving in the capital city Tegulcigapa.
- Rusty and Christine Moyer recently viewed some Picasso paintings at a showing in San Francisco.
- Noticed on Facebook: Sarah Blake and Baldemar Ambriz are both interested in Harry Potter movies.
- Peter Boldt was the first FMCCer to cross the finish line in the 10 K Menno Night Run at Pittsburgh. Mike Linscheid was the first FMCCer to cross the finish line in the 5 K Menno Night Run. The run crossed the Roberto Clemente bridge and ran by the Pirates and Steelers' stadiums.
- Noticed on Facebook: Daleap Hut is back in Cambodia and her family is very pleased with all the gifts she brought home!
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(continued on next page)

## Events in our FMC Family and Beyond~~~ (cont.)

- Vern and Judy Warkentin's grand-daughter Kristen will be teaching for a second year at Hopi Mission School. Kristen is serving with Mennonite Voluntary Service and is much beloved at the school.
- Noticed on Facebook: some great photos by Hope Nisly.
- Jeannette Ewy will be attending University High School in Fresno next year.
- Ricardo Andrade was delighted when the Mexican national soccer team won the Gold Cup.
- Arnie and Melva Ewy, and their entire clan, spent some relaxing days at Cayucos.
- Old friends Jordan Penner and Nathan Boldt took a long hike at Yosemite, passing by Vernal and Nevada Falls, as well as Glacier Point.
- Caught in the act of gardening: Paul and Ruth Buxman's children's Sunday School class has lots of watermelon growing out on the ranch.



### Rumblings Around the Campus by Paul Reimer, Custodian

Here it is, the middle of summer and we have had moderate temperatures mainly under 100 degrees.

The main work now is watering the lawn and plants around the church. Also trimming shrubs and mowing the lawns around the campus is a main task.

We had a mysterious occurrence last week. We had a leak from some pipe but at first we couldn't identify the source of the leak because of no direct evidence. Then Dave Hasegawa said that it may be leaking from a pipe under the cement. So we cut the pipe under the cement and capped it. That seems to have solved the problem.

This week Sharon and I are going on vacation. We are flying to Seattle to meet up with Dietrich, Johann and our daughter-in-law, Laura. We will then rent a van and go camping in British Columbia for one week. I will be returning on July 31.

Until next month . . . *Paul Reimer*

## Changes to the Operations of the World Handcrafts Store and Mennonite Quilt Center

Central California Mennonite Service Center (CCMSC) is announcing that the World Handcrafts Store, a retail store selling fair trade crafts, will close in its present location on G Street in downtown Reedley, on January 14, 2012. The CCMSC Board oversees three not-for-profit businesses located on G Street in downtown Reedley; the Nearly New thrift shop, the Mennonite Quilt Center and the World Handcrafts Store. Great consideration was given to the financial viability of the store, and the interests of the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee (WCMCC) in its increasing need for space in the building.

The CCMSC board has also decided to offer the management of the Mennonite Quilt Center to the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee (WCMCC). It is the hope of the CCMSC board that WCMCC will continue the operation of the store.



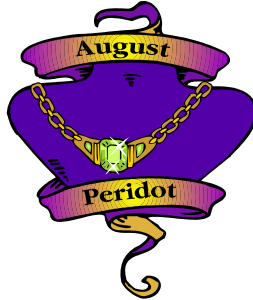


# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## August Birthdays

- 1—Ethel Harder
- 1—Paul Reimer
- 2—Sylvia Gomez
- 2—AJ Salyers
- 4—Joshua Boldt
- 4—Don Ewy
- 5—Sara Blake
- 6—Pauline Aguilar
- 10—Marty Zimmerman
- 12—Grace Montes
- 13—LaVeta Auernheimer
- 13—Ellen Ewy
- 14—Josiah Harder
- 15—Roberto Valdovinos
- 16—David Hasegawa
- 18—Jenny Penner
- 19—Daniel Boldt
- 20—Andrea Friesen
- 20—Ethan Milton
- 20—Doris Reimer
- 21—David Rodriguez
- 21—Loretta Unruh
- 23—Vern Warkentin
- 27—Hope Nisly
- 28—Ron Ewy
- 28—Hazel Neufeld
- 28—Jayla Sandoval
- 28—Florence Siebert
- 31—Doug Kliewer
- 31—Merle Siebert



## September Birthdays

- 2—Yajaria Lara
- 4—Linda Ewy
- 6—Melinda Hasegawa
- 9—Fran Loewen
- 11—Paul Buxman
- 14—Amelia Mireles
- 15—Judy Warkentin
- 16—Michael Friedenber
- 22—Louise Auernheimer
- 22—Emily Milton
- 23—Manuel Ambriz
- 23—Jesus Duran
- 23—Dee Patrick
- 24—Sharon Reimer
- 25—Tyler Linscheid
- 29—Michael Ewy
- 29—Aleta Rempel
- 30—Paisley Caron
- 30—Lance Zimmerman



## *Happy Anniversary*

### *August Anniversaries*

- 7—Francisco & Beth Rodriguez (1 year)
- 9—Eric & Annmarie Wergelund (8 years)
- 21—Frank & Ruth Rogalsky (57 years)
- 21—Brad & JoCynne Blake (19 years)
- 26—John & Frances Rogalsky (56 years)

### *September Anniversaries*

- 2—David & Carol Krehbiel (51 years)
- 3—Dick & Karen Peterson (44 years)
- 15—Doug & C Jay Page (27 years)
- 16—Chester & Betsy Funk (50 years)

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

If there is something you would like to post on "The Bulletin Board," please call Dee in the church office, 638-2917, or send her an e-mail at [fmcreedley@juno.com](mailto:fmcreedley@juno.com).

## 2011 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please make following changes:

Brad & JoLynne Blake  
109 Wood Duck Drive  
Sanger, CA 93657  
307-6397

## CAMP KEOLA FAMILY CAMP

Looking for something fun to do with your family to end the summer? Camp Keola Family Camp is September 2-5.

Go to [www.campkeola.org](http://www.campkeola.org) for more information.

Registration forms and checks may be submitted to Dee in the church office.



The Mennonite Women will be having their annual Salad Supper on Monday September 12th at 6:00 PM. Please bring a salad and your own tableware. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletin announcements.



## PRAYER VINE

*Connected to the true vine, to ministries across the street and around the world.*

A copy of the *Prayer Vine* for August is now available to you on the table in the organ entry-way. September's will be available at the end of August. You can also access the Prayer Vine online at [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net).

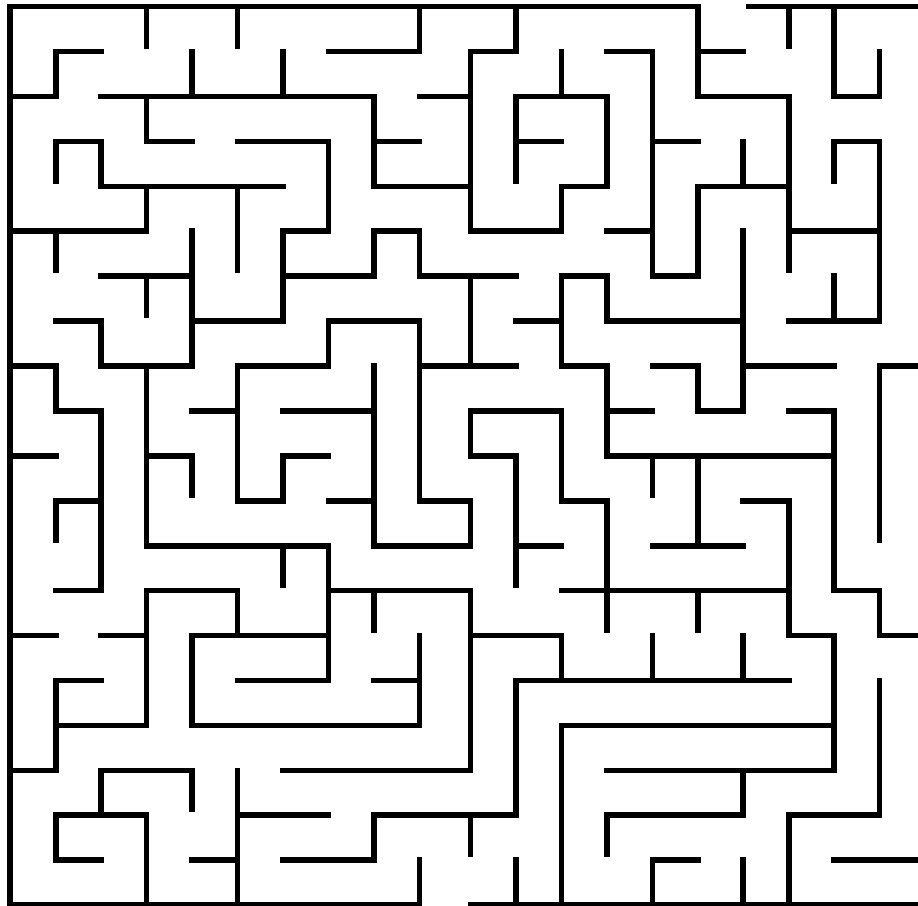
# KID'S CORNER



**X Marks the Spot!** Did you know that the *Greek* word for Christ begins with the *Greek* letter X? In *Greek* this letter is called *chi* and it sounds like the "ch" in the word "loch." The phrase "X marks the spot" can refer to Christ on our search for treasure. Christ marks the spot! How are you allowing Jesus Christ to help you find your treasure in life? Allow Christ to excavate the buried treasure in your life and let it shine. Rejoice, you are a treasure!

## Find the Buried Treasure

Find your way through the maze to the treasure. Rejoice when you find it!



REEDLEY  
PEACE CENTER  
CALENDAR




- **Friday, August 5, 6:30-8:30**  
• Documentary: **Paper Clips** (82 minutes)  
• Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee is the setting for this documentary about an extraordinary experiment in Holocaust education. Struggling to grasp the concept of 6 million Holocaust victims, the students decide to collect 6 million paper clips to better understand the enormity of the calamity. The film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community.
- **Friday, August 12, 6:30-8:30**  
• Documentary: **The Singing Revolution** (97 minutes)  
• James and Maureen Castle Tusty's moving documentary recounts Estonia's fight for independence from Soviet occupation, telling the remarkable story of the hundreds of thousands of protestors who gathered in public to voice their dissent through song. After 50 years of rule by the oppressive Soviet regime, the people of Estonia gave life to a grassroots movement for change by staging passionate rallies and singing forbidden patriotic songs.
- **Friday, August 19, 6:30-8:30**  
• Speakers: **Kimberly Medendorp and Randy Christopher**. Topic: **The Pasadena Peace and Justice Academy**. The Academy is a four year old school for 6th through 10th grade students (eventually through 12th grades). Kimberly and Randy are Co-Executive Directors. This innovative school is sponsored by the Pasadena Mennonite Church, however it serves a diverse community with a strong academic curriculum that is religious only insofar as it prepares students to be peacemakers and to strive for justice for all.
- **Friday, August 26, 6:30-8:30**  
• Documentary: **Wasteland** (99 minutes)  
• Renowned artist Vik Muniz embarks on one of the most inspired collaborations of his career, joining creative forces with Brazilian catadores -- garbage pickers who mine treasure from the trash heaps of Rio de Janeiro's Jardim Gramacho landfill. In this Oscar-nominated documentary, the catadores prove to be unique and surprising individuals in their own right, waxing philosophic as they impart a valuable lesson about what society discards.
- **Friday, September 2, 6:30-8:30 TBD**
- **Friday, September 9, 6:30-8:30**  
• Speaker: **Doug Noll**, author, teacher, and nationally recognized mediator and peacemaker. Topic: **Elusive Peace: How Modern Diplomatic Strategies Could Better Resolve World Conflicts**. How does one mediate peace in the face of evil? His book, **Elusive Peace**, penetrates the headlines and takes a critical look at peace negotiations through the eyes of a professional mediator and peacemaker.
- **Friday, September 16, 6:30-8:30**  
• Speaker: **Daniel O'Connell**, Associate Director of Sequoia Riverlands Trust. Topic: **Towards a Spiritual Land Ethic**
- **Friday, September 23, 6:30-8:30 TBD**
- **Friday, September 30, 6:30-8:30 TBD**



# August 2011





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 FMC/PIM car trip to a soccer game in San Jose
14 5PM Immigration talk with Araceli Moreno	15	16	17	18 	19 PIM Family Camp at Camp Keola →	20
→ 21	22 7PM Visioning Task Force Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
<p><b><u>SUNDAY</u></b>            8:45 a.m. Prayer Time in the Library            9:30 a.m. Christian Education            10:45 a.m. Worship Services in English &amp; Spanish</p>			<p><b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>            9:30 a.m. Needles &amp; Notions            7:00 p.m. Kids Club &amp; MYF            7:00 p.m. Alabanza y Oración</p>			
<p><b><u>MONDAY</u></b>            12 noon AA Meeting</p>			<p><b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>            6:30 p.m. Peace Center</p>			
<p><b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>            6:15 a.m. Anabaptist Prayer Gathering</p>			<p><b><u>SATURDAY</u></b>            5:00 a.m. Prayer Time in the Fireside Room</p>			



# September 2011



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1	2	3
4				8	9	10
		7PM Deacon Meeting	6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting			
11				15	16	17
	6PM MW Salad Supper					
18				22	23	24
		7PM Council Meeting				
25				29	30	

**SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. Prayer Time in the Library  
 9:30 a.m. Christian Education  
 10:45 a.m. Worship Services in English & Spanish

**MONDAY**

12 noon AA Meeting

**TUESDAY**

6:15 a.m. Anabaptist Prayer Gathering  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting in the Basement

**WEDNESDAY**

9:30 a.m. Needles & Notions  
 7:00 p.m. Kids Club & MYF  
 7:00 p.m. Alabanza y Oración  
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**FRIDAY**

6:30 p.m. Peace Center

**SATURDAY**

5:00 a.m. Prayer Time in the Fireside Room