



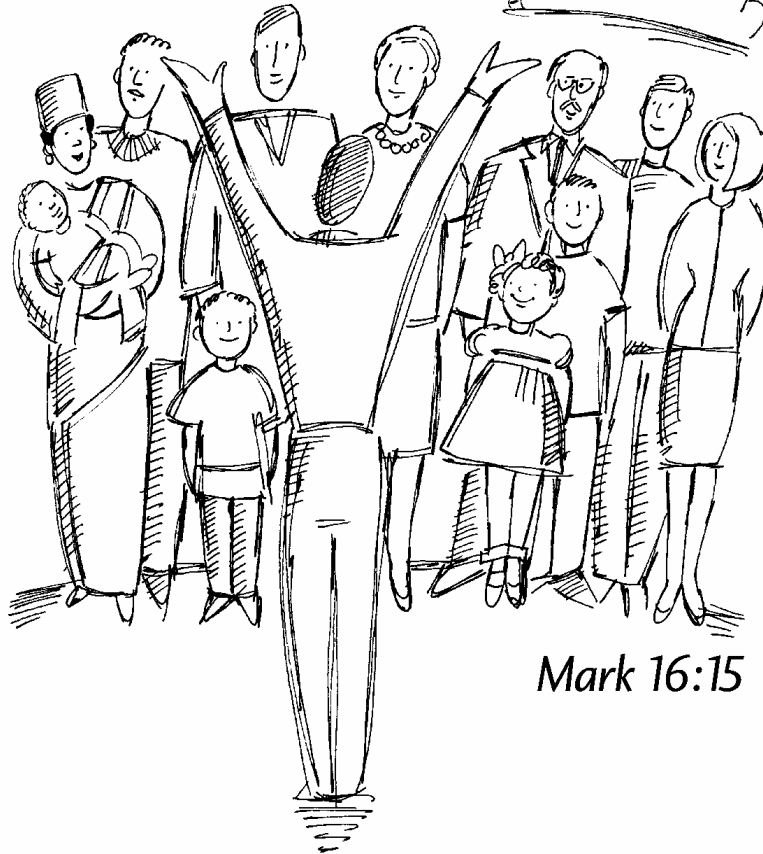
The Wooster Window

Newsletter of the Wooster Mennonite Church

Volume 8, Number 2

January/February 2007

Go into all the world and preach the
good news to all creation.



Mark 16:15

Sabbatical Plans

by Cathy Schmid on behalf of the Elder Team

This fall I truly have enjoyed our Disciple Bible study of the prophets, both major and minor. What a history lesson we have had! Good and bad kings, conquest and exile, faithfulness and failure...we have rediscovered an Old Testament that is full of drama, power, and passion. One recurring theme, which we have heard echo throughout the prophets' message is to keep the Sabbath holy, for it is a gift of God. *Continued on next page.*



Sabbatical Plans *continued from previous page.*

That commandment is often a struggle for me, and I bet it is for you as well. Is it possible to truly set apart time to rest in this hectic world of ours? And yet I know that when I make time to be fully present to God and His word, to lay down responsibilities and enjoy the beauties of creation, or to set aside my own needs in order to address the needs of others I am renewed in ways that are hard to explain.

We have been created by God to need both rest and time apart from the busyness of life. Sabbath time is indeed a gift that we would all do well to “open” regularly. Sabbath time is important for our congregation as well. As we gather to worship and fellowship together as a body we honor God’s will for us and prayerfully come away from those experiences renewed and refreshed in our common faith.

The elder team has long recognized the importance of Sabbath time for our pastor too. We have encouraged Ralph to once a month take a day apart from all of his responsibilities to be alone with God--to walk, to pray, to read for his own edification, to rest--he has been faithful to do this. Now this spring he has another opportunity for Sabbath time as we at Wooster Mennonite send him with our blessing on a well-

deserved three-month sabbatical (March through May).

Though Ralph’s plans are not yet final and details are still being worked out, his time away from us will involve a variety of activities:

4



“ Remember
the sabbath
day, to keep
it holy.”

Exodus 20:8

time spent apart to practice spiritual disciplines; vacation time with Barb and family; a Katrina relief service opportunity in the Gulf coast region; and a Biblical study and travel program to the Holy Land. As he concludes his three-month sabbatical, Ralph plans additional time to reflect on his experiences and how he will

share what he has learned with the congregation upon his return.

The elders join with PRC and church council in encouraging all of us to actively support Ralph in this upcoming adventure. How?

First and foremost, be in prayer for him. Pray for the details of his planning, for his refreshment while he is away, for Barb and Ralph while they are apart from one another much of the time, for the many ways God will speak to him in his service, study, and rest. Secondly, be in prayer for our congregation as we prepare for Ralph’s absence. May God guide and direct our planning. May we be open to our own “adventure” while Ralph is away from us.

Finally, we can offer our financial support to help make Ralph’s sabbatical a true blessing to all of us. Monetary support for a sabbatical is not part of our church budget so we must raise the needed funds. Donated monies will help send Ralph to the Holy Land and provide for other travel expenses to the Gulf coast. They also will help cover the cost of pastoral care and preaching coverage while he is away. Please consider being part of this sabbatical adventure by sharing what you

can--donations should be made to WMC and designated for the Pastor Sabbatical Fund.

Let us anticipate great blessing for both Ralph and the congregation through this sabbatical experience.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our sympathies to **Mary Headings** and **Beulah Steiner** following the death of their father November 26, 2006. **Mark** and **Mary, Beulah** and **Jerry** were in Iowa with him at the time of his death.

Congratulations to **Pete Johnson** on the completion of his studies at Kent State University. Pete is acquiring a degree in

German with a minor in Education. He will be teaching some German classes at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy beginning in January.

Welcome home to all of our college students. It's great having you here.

Congratulations to grandparents, **Kim** and **Jim Hartman**. They have a new

grandson, **Noah Andrew Sullivan** who was born Dec. 22 to their daughter, **Janet** and husband, **Bob**.

Gerald and **Carol Miller** will be spending the month of January in Florida. **Beulah** and **Jerry Steiner** will travel to the sunshine state in February.

DEPRESSION PUDDING

submitted by Velma Carter

1/2 cup Brown Sugar 1 cup Raisins (seedless)
1 Tbls. Butter 1 cup Flour
1/2 cup Milk 2 tsp. Baking Powder
Pinch of Salt

Mix above ingredients. Pour into deep baking dish.

SAUCE

1 cup Brown Sugar 1 Tbls. Butter
1 tsp. Vanilla 2 cups Boiling Water

Pour over batter and bake 375 until top is firm and brown.

LAYER CASSEROLE

Submitted by Velma Carter

Layer of each

Potatoes (sliced)
Onion (sliced)
Hamburger (lean if available)
Rice
Tomatoes - cooked (part juice)

Melt 1 Tablespoon butter in baking dish.

Slice potatoes thin for a deep layer in bottom of dish. Season with salt and pepper, also the next layers.

A thin layer of rice is fine. Now pour tomatoes on top. Dot the top with butter.

Bake 350 for one hour or until done.

Vary the amount of ingredients according to the number you wish to serve.

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A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;

Enough trials to keep us strong;

Enough hope to keep us lively;

Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;

Enough failure to keep us humble;

Enough success to keep us eager;

Enough friends to give us comfort;

Enough wealth to meet our needs;

Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;

Enough faith to overcome despair;

And enough determination to use every day

and situation somehow for good.

Meet Themba and Sebolelo Masina

by Greenman Themba Masina

To whom it may concern,

Written below is an brief account on Greenman Themba Masina:-

I, Greenman Themba Masina, was born on March the 5th, 1946 in Hlatikulu, Swaziland. I am 2nd in a family of eight. In the US I am with Sebolelo, my wife since 1971. I have been employed to teach Crop Protection courses by the Crop Production Department in the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Swaziland since June, 1975. In the Faculty of Agriculture I have held various positions. I have been Faculty Tutor (Assistant to the Dean), Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Head of Department in Crop Production. I have held several responsible positions such as Link Coordinator for the Faculty of Agriculture, Member of both University Senate and Council, and also have been a Board Member in the University of Swaziland Pension Committee.

Sebolelo was born on July 1st, 1946 in Mohaleshoek, Lesotho. We got married on September 25th, 1971 at Teyateyaneng in Lesotho. Sebolelo retired from Nedbank, Swaziland at the end of June, 2006 after 34 years in the bank. Before working for Nedbank she worked for the Statistics Department in Lesotho and then Standard Chartered Bank for about 5 years. Sebolelo and I have 4 children aged 34, 29, 28 and 27 years respectively.

I am currently on sabbatical leave at ATI, Wooster until the end of July, 2007. At ATI I teach General and Applied Entomology and will be going back to Swaziland on the last lap before retiring in March, 2011. At ATI my interest is in Beekeeping and Hydroponics. These I hope to pursue beyond retirement.

I am a member of the Methodist Church of South Africa. I have had several responsibilities in church too. I have been a church elder, Society Steward, Circuit Steward for the Hhohho Circuit, and a lay preacher.

About 20 years ago we met with Dr Mark Headings when I was Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. We have had some collaborative work over the years. At one time we taught Crop Protection Courses with Mark in Swaziland. He has been to our Faculty in Swaziland, our home and our church at least 4 times. On one of the occasions we came together to Wooster, Ohio. On the last occasion he came to Swaziland with Mrs. Mary Headings. Together with Mark we visited a number of places in Swaziland as well as the Kruger National Park in the Republic of South Africa.



God gives us all a free trip around the sun each year. Enjoy the ride.
—Source unknown

Hands for Jesus

by Joann Hershberger

We met on a beautiful October day. Ruth Mumaw was our hostess. We knotted a comforter and made pink scrubbies. For our project, we gave \$100.00 to People to People. Mary Hershberger brought in some prayer blankets, which she made. She was also in charge of our lesson called "Time with God". The focus was the Sabbath. We shared our experiences and how we can improve in this area.

In November, we made our plans for a cookie exchange for the next meeting. Our project is a donation to MCC Connections for \$60.00, which will fill 3 relief kits. Several of our members brought in projects, which they worked on at home. Carolyn donated a blue prayer shawl and Ora made dolls with matching bags. This is a talented group!

In November our work continued on the quilt and comforters. Other finished projects were a prayer shawl, more kit bags, and 2 bags made for children complete with a doll and book. Our project was to

support MCC Connections with a check for 3 Relief Kits. We also wanted to give the congregation the opportunity to participate by donating money or assembling the kit.

Our lesson, by Carol Miller was entitled "Everything Has It's Time". She gave us this good advice: "Live well and joyfully; each age is a gift". After prayer, we enjoyed lunch brought by Carolyn Reed.

Our December project was a check to People to People for \$100.00. Our worship theme was "Healed from Hurry Sickness"; something we could all relate to at this time of year. After a sack lunch and beverages by Ora Rugani, we all took part in our cookie exchange. We sampled and tasted, then filled our plates but had enough left over for the carolers to pass out. We were able to supply 4 more relief kits for MCC Connections. Thank you for your response.



The Source Café

by Jacob Dodson

During the first week of September, the MYF was prepared to host the first Source but found that the interest of local youth for the event groups had decreased considerably. In October, the level of interest for the Source seemed to remain the same. Both the MYF and the adult leaders felt the need to discuss options for addressing the lagging interest. The result of the discussions was to change the format of the Source from a full band with multimedia presentation in the sanctuary to a café environment with acoustic music in our fellowship hall. The changes were to be applied for a two-month trial period. The goal of the changes was to create an environment that fostered more interaction between the MYF and other youth groups in more intimate discussions, study, and worship. In November, Sonnenberg Mennonite Church's youth group joined us for the first Source Café. We had an enjoyable time and afterwards our MYF as well as the group from Sonnenberg wanted to continue the event. In December, Smithville Mennonite Church's youth groups came to the event and voiced similar desire for

the event to continue. After finishing the two-month trial period, we have decided to continue hosting the Source Café, which will next take place on Wednesday January 3rd. Please keep us in your prayer that we may grow deeper in our faith through scriptural study and worship at the Source Café and continue to enjoy the company of other youth groups. May our gifts be a "fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God" (Phil. 4:18, RSV).

LOVE

Love is *patient,*
love is *kind.*
It does not *envy,*
it does not *boast,*
it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4

Facts or Fallacies?

Submitted by Mary Hershberger

1. You have five senses -- Right?
Wrong! There are also senses of balance, pain, temperature, hunger and thirst, and of course common sense.
2. An airplane's black box is black -- Right?
Wrong! It is bright orange.
3. A raindrop is pear shaped – Right?
Wrong! It is shaped like a hamburger bun with a thumbprint in it.
4. Mt. Everest is the tallest mountain in the world – Right?
Wrong! Mauna Kea Mt. in the Hawaiian Islands is 756 feet taller, but 16,000 feet of it is under water.
5. Diamonds are the most valuable gems – Right?
Wrong again! Rubies are more valuable.

These quotes were found on the back of a cereal box. Use your own judgment as to their authenticity's or an internet check might be wise.



More thoughts to ponder...

Submitted by Mary Hershberger

- Why is the man who invests your money called a broker?
Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
Why do we drive on the parkway and park on the driveway?
Why are the seating areas in the stadium call the stands?
Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?

CONTENTMENT

M.E.R.

The crackle by the fireside,
The sunset at an evening tide,
Beauty of the countryside,
Contentment.

Enchantment of the stars ablaze,
The ocean with its turquoise waves,
And cattle on a hillside graze,
Contentment.

Oh clear blue skies – no clouds in sight.
An eagle in its mighty flight,
A single candle in the night,
Contentment.

The wonder of the wild, vast plain,
And rippling fields of golden grain,
Lullaby's of down pouring rain,
Contentment.

Bright flowers blooming near the sod,
The mystery of a path untrod,
The mind at ease – All's right with God,
Contentment.



The world's most basic needs can be summed up in four words: bread, brains, belief and brotherhood.

—Dr. J. Wallace Hamilton

Are You Connected?

by Mark Headings

The “Senior Enrichment Connection” (SEC) is a ministry sponsored by the Wooster Mennonite Church. It began functioning in Autumn of 2006, with the first dinner meeting held at the WMC Fellowship Center on Friday evening, November 9. That event consisted of a devotional by our Pastor, Ralph Reinford, followed by dinner and fellowship. Our Assistant Pastor, Jacob Dodson, led group singing accompanied by guitar. A digital slide presentation entitled, “An Icelandic Adventure” was given by Mark Headings.

The second event was held Friday evening, December 8. The theme was “Happy Birthday Jesus.” The Christmas story was read from Luke 2:1-20 by Themba Masina, followed by a prayer. After dinner and fellowship, the

group sang Christmas songs led by Carol Miller at the piano. The main feature of the evening was a narrated digital slide presentation by Jerry and Beulah Steiner. They shared their experience of visiting Bethlehem the night before Christmas some years ago.

The next SEC dinner meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 12, 2007 (6:00-7:30 p.m.) in the WMC Fellowship Center. At the February 9 dinner meeting, Herman Myers is scheduled to speak on the SEC theme, “Life With Purpose.” Everyone who considers himself/herself a senior citizen is invited to these monthly events, regardless of age. That is probably a younger age than you may think! Even if you do not consider yourself a senior citizen, feel free to bring others who are and participate in the event with

them. Please invite friends and neighbors. Free transportation will be provided upon request. Just call Mark Headings at 330.263.1794 or send an e-mail message to mmheadings@hotmail.com.

Check the monthly newsletter entitled “The Connector” for information concerning both past and upcoming events.

Members of the Senior Enrichment Connection Planning Committee are as follows:

Ora Rugani, Liz Martin, Lindsay Beyer, Mary and Mark Headings. I greatly appreciate the work they are doing. Each one brings unique talents to this ministry. If anyone else in our congregation is interested in serving on this committee, please let Mark Headings know. We would love to have you join us!



NATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS CONVENTION 2006

by Doug Yoder

From November 17-19th, Jen and I had the opportunity to go to the 2006 National Youth Workers Convention in Cincinnati, OH. We were very excited to be able to go to this convention. We last attended this convention in 1999 and were excited for the opportunity to go again.

We arrived at the convention facility Friday evening and quickly found a forum to be part of. The group focused on youth ministry in a small town. It was fun listening to other youth leaders share their ideas and experiences. The nice thing about a convention of this size is that there seems to be a niche for everyone. We were able to find several seminars that dealt with working with smaller youth groups. The perspective that we gained through these seminars was very refreshing. There are many advantages of being a small group, from developing deeper personal relationships to logistical things like travel.

A few of the other seminars that we attended included the topics of creative Bible teaching, responding to community disasters, understanding teenage spirituality and a couple of others. All of these were packed with useful, practical information that we hope to use throughout our time as MYF sponsors.

A typical day at the convention consisted of morning seminars followed by a General Session, which were incredible

worship services. After the General Session, there were seminars and time to shop at the Youth Specialties Store, where we were able to purchase several resource books and CDs. The afternoon provided the opportunity for more seminars. The evening concluded with a second General Session. For the night owls, they offered late night forums and concerts.

It's hard to try to explain all that went on, but for me the General Sessions were the highlight of the convention. The session would start with a comedian. If you want some great Christian comedians to listen to, Thor Ramsey, Ron Pearson and Taylor Mason are fantastic. The comedy in worship reminded me that God created laughter and fun and is a gift that should be celebrated. After the comedians, a band or artist would come out and lead worship singing. The first session that we went to, the David Crowder Band was incredible. The remaining general sessions were led by a band from Canada called Starfield. It was very refreshing to worship corporately with 4500 other Christians. Denominations did not matter. What did was proclaiming the awesomeness of God. These worship services helped both Jen and I to recharge spiritually and regain the perspective that it's not about us, but about God and how we can use gifts he has given us. The

message for each session was brought by a different speaker, ranging from seasoned youth workers to college professors. They were all very encouraging and challenging.

Although the convention ended on Monday, the real world called us back home late Sunday night, actually early Monday morning. I think it was about 2 a.m. when we finally pulled into the garage. The reason we stayed so late was that Toby Mac, formerly of DC Talk, put on a concert that lasted until 10 p.m. I do not regret the decision to stay at all. Coming home, we felt refreshed and filled with the Holy Spirit. YS Convention is something that I hope the church can build into the budget so that MYF sponsors can attend on a regular basis. Jen and I would personally like to thank all who prayerfully and financially supported our trip. The only bad thing about the convention is that the Ohio State v. Michigan game was going on at the same time. So we had to watch bits and pieces as we went from place to place within the convention center. Fortunately, we were able to see the end of the game before the last General Session on Saturday. What a great weekend, an awesome convention and the Buckeyes beating the Wolverines.



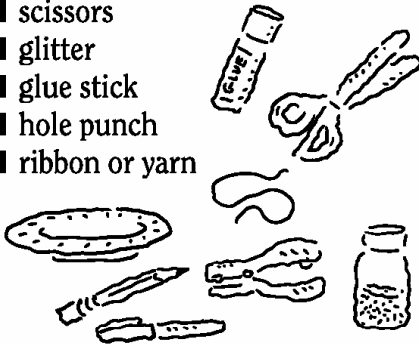
Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God's eyes.



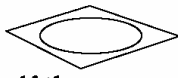
What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



What you need to do:

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.



























Just for KIDS

Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

Directions: Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1			7		
	pra	u		wonder	e
2			8		
	yo	fully		ma	ur
3			9		
	be	ise		yo	de
4			10		
	a	nd		wo	ful
5			11		
	fear	m		ar	fully
6			12		
	a	cause		wonder	rks

“I _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ I _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ ; _____ 9 _____ 10 _____
 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____”

Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer: “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful....”



The Wooster Window

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Deadline for Jan/Feb issue: 1st week of

February

Address Correction Requested

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