



# The Wooster Window

Newsletter of Wooster Mennonite Church

Vol. 9, Num. 5

July/August 2008

## A WORD FROM THE NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb. 13:8

Sing to the Lord a new song,..... Ps. 149:1

**C**hange. It is the word of our times. This political season one presidential candidate uses the slogan "Change You Can Believe In." The other candidate states he has a record of change—not just the rhetoric of change. We are adjusting to rapidly rising energy and food costs. Almost everything appears to be in a state of flux.

We in the church serve the One who does not change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. God is always faithful and true and holy. But God also calls us to sing a new song. The message is the same, but the forms may change.

Some of the forms and structure are changing at Wooster Mennonite Church. We will be singing a new song. Starting in September the existing structure of Church Council and Elders will be no more. A new leadership team of six elders and the pastor will be responsible for the oversight of both the spiritual and worldly affairs of this congregation. Committees as we have known them will be replaced by teams that will be more flexible. Teams will form around the primary ministries of the church—worship, Christian formation, outreach, community life (within the congregation), caring, and stewardship. Some teams will be ongoing throughout the year. Some may be

short term, focused on a specific project.

The new leadership team has met twice to begin discussing how we will implement this new structure. There is much that we do not know. We are trusting God to show us the way. We are committed to emphasizing prayer and outreach as we proceed. We have also discovered that each of the ministries is inter-related and that there are many ways that one ministry can support another. We are excited about where God is leading us. We know we will make some mistakes, and we ask for grace and forgiveness in advance from the congregation. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Of that we are sure.

On August 24, the new leadership team will lead the worship service to share with you our vision of where we are heading. The worship service will be held in the fellowship center and will allow some conversation about how each member can participate in this new beginning. We are calling this "New Beginning Sunday". Later, on September 14, each one will be asked to make a commitment to participate in a ministry. We are calling this "Covenant Sunday". There will be more announcements in the coming weeks.

We continue to ask for your prayers for us and for the congregation. Pray that God will show you how you can participate in His work in the church and the world. Know that we will be praying also for His mercy and direction for you.

If you have questions, ask any of the members of the leadership team:

Cathy Schmid	Worship
Liz Martin	Caring and Prayer
Margaret Latta	Outreach
Leon Hershberger	Stewardship
John Ramsay	Community Life
Jim Bay	Christian Formation, Chairperson
Ralph Reinford	Pastor
Jim Bay	



### Monthly Schedule

Aug. 11 Church Council 7:00 pm at church.

Aug. 12 Annual Reports are due.

Aug. 17 Mark Headings will bring the morning sermon.

Aug. 24 Leadership Team will share the vision for future church structure. It is a time of "new beginnings."



Here's what some of us have been doing in the last few months. The response was so great that the editor had to shorten some of the entries. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Gerald and Carol Miller spent their two month summer vacation in Wooster. They had lived in the area for 30 years and recently relocated to Sarasota, FL. Their apartment in the student housing village at ATI is located near beautiful walking paths through Secret Arboretum, the rose garden, and crabapple way. They have re-visited old friends and connected again with Wooster Mennonite while escaping the 90 degree heat in Florida. They will head to Florida in early August and spend a few days with their daughter, Connie, and her family in Staunton, VA on the way.



Lloyd, Carol, Ethan, and Jason Horst went to Cove Christian Camp in Mercersburg, PA for the Eshleman family reunion. About 40 people were able to make it, but that is a little less than half of the family.

Ethan is spending the summer in Virginia working on a research project and volunteering at Gift and Thrift. Jason spent nine weeks at the University of Arkan-

sas in the REU-Microelectronic Photonic Program.

Lloyd and Carol have been busy remodeling the house room by room; tending their garden of corn, potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers (do you want some?); and freezing blueberries, raspberries, sour cherries, peaches, and applesauce.

Jon and Julie Longacre went to two family reunions. The first was with Jon's father's extended family in Bally, PA. The annual Longacre reunion is held every 4<sup>th</sup> of July at the old homestead. Jon's parents, nieces and nephew went along. Jon had fun daring the little ones to try potluck delicacies such as calf tongue and pickled eggs. They played in the creek and had lots of ice cream from a local dairy run by some of the cousins. (They report they didn't have to work hard at all to persuade the kids to eat that!)

In late July they traveled to Springfield, MO for a reunion on Julie's side. Her mom's siblings and their families convened from California, Kentucky, Washington state, and Texas for several days of good food, corn hole games and passing cute cuddly babies back and forth. While there they received the sobering news that Julie's aunt Susie most likely has terminal cancer. In the midst of the shock and tears they saw God's blessing as the entire family surrounded her with love, hugs, and prayers.

Julie says, "After all the travel, it is good to hang our hats in Wooster for the next couple of

months as we eagerly await the arrival of our baby.

Jim and Cindy Bay along with Jessie Bay, Ross Bay, Cindy's sister Julie and her boyfriend, Jon, went to Yosemite National Park and San Francisco. They hiked 44 miles in four days and saw spectacular views of Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, giant sequoias, and incredible beauty everywhere. Alcatraz was a highlight in San Francisco.



At the home front there is always weeding and mowing to do. The garden has rhubarb, asparagus, broccoli, onions, spinach, strawberries, cantaloupe, watermelon, basil, tomatoes, kale, pumpkin, and Brussels sprouts. A groundhog managed to consume most of the lettuce, peas, and sweet potatoes. They also have numerous perennials, annuals and a huge bed of day-lilies.

Jim is running and training with Doug Yoder to run a marathon in October. Jim said, "Let's hope we make it!"

Leona Horst, her niece, Sara Beachy, a friend and her niece all went to Ireland, Holland, France and Switzerland. They "Mennonited" their way and also stayed with friends. They visited the Dutch Resistance Museum in Amsterdam and hiked several areas in Northern Ireland and Switzerland.

Leona tends two acres of fruit trees, some of which were planted by her



grandfather. She also volunteers at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale along with her extended family of mother, sister, and various nephews. Her garden has many different kinds of vegetables and she freezes enough of those plus fruit to last until the next harvest.

Steve and Cathy Schmid went to a variety of places this summer. They moved Amanda into her apartment in Baltimore, at Washington, D.C. they attended an ice cream social, in Chicago they hiked along Lakeshore Drive, they shared dinner with Cullen in Columbus, and while in Oregon, they attended Abbie Johnson's wedding. Hopefully, they got to do some whale watching from Vancouver Island.

Cathy got a new bike this summer and they have been doing some rails and trails together. Their garden has asparagus and weeds, which they do not preserve in any way.



Gordon & Janet Miller don't have a lot of room for a garden, but Janet has gotten into flowers and perennials the last couple of years. She has a variety of daylilies, hostas, ferns, ladies mantle, astilbe. Jack-frost brunnera is her favorite, with large silvery leaves and tiny blue blooms that last quite long in the spring. Four hydrangeas are particularly special because they came from a plant her dad took off his family farm. Deby Welty shared how to raise jade plants by putting them outside in the summer, actually planting them in the ground, then repotting in

the fall. Janet says they grow like crazy with this method, doubling in size in a summer.

Janet and Alisa took a bus tour to New York City July 31-Aug. 4. They stopped the first night in Scranton, PA to tour, not the set of The Office (for those of you that watch that), but Lackawanna Coal Mine. Then, they headed for NYC where they saw two Broadway shows, visited Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral, 5th Ave, Wall Street, Greenwich Village, and Chinatown. They also took a cruise to see Manhattan, visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Leon & Esther Hershberger's vacation this year took them to Lancaster, PA and then on to Harrisonburg, VA. They visited Teresa, who is serving as an intern at James Street Mennonite Church. While there, they enjoyed a dinner theatre, and coffee with some of the James Street staff. In Harrisonburg, they attended Esther's brother's wedding and really enjoyed the time with family celebrating this happy occasion. They put a lot of miles on the car in four days, but felt it was worth every mile and every gas dollar.



Esther says, "Laugh if you must; although I am not a gardener, I always feel the need to plant a seed!" Her garden consists of one tomato plant, a sprig of parsley, a cucumber bush, and a tiny row of green beans. She has frozen a snack bag of beans for soup and expects to do one or two more after enjoying some fresh beans. She feels sure her cucumber bush will produce at

least three cups of sliced cucumbers so she can make a recipe for frozen cucumbers. It looks like the tomato plant will yield enough for a few bags of tomato sauce for winter time soup.

Margaret Latta went to Nassau, Bahamas in February with her cousin who lives in Canada, but also has a home in Nassau. She had the chance to meet her cousins' family there. They visited many sites, such as Fort Montagu built in 1741 out of local limestone, the famous Atlantis hotel/resort, caves, The Pompey Museum of Slavery & Emancipation, The Straw Market where you can bid for items, and the Nassau Library built in 1797.

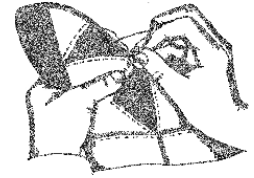
The US dollar is equal to the Bahamian dollar and they rode a Jitney (bus) around the whole New Providence Island for a dollar! They also saw a Junkanoo, which is a celebration of the heritage expressed in music, art and dance. They wear costumes and dance through the streets playing cowbells, drums, whistles, and horns. It was quite loud.

She most loved that the beaches and water were so clear and clean!



The waters were the most beautiful blue color. Margaret commented, "I have never seen anything like it! Photos of the beaches do not do justice!" She also tasted some local food favorites made from Conch, saw some exotic birds, and visited a Baptist church.

# Wooster Mennonite Women



Harriet Noblit was hostess for our June meeting, with eight in attendance. Ruth Mumaw led in devotions and the lesson was entitled "Spiritual Gifts". God is the source of our gifts! Mildred Peachey was visiting in the area but we were unable to coordinate our July meeting with her time here. However, some of us were able to meet with her for breakfast and a nice visit. We also made plans to display our quilts and other projects so that the rest of you in the congregation can see first hand what we are up to on the second Tuesday of the month. We hope you took the time to check it out on June 15th.

In July, we launched our school kits project with a different twist. Since MCC Connections can fill three school kit bags for only \$5.00, you may want to consider making a donation instead of taking our bags and filling them. Last year, MCC Connections assembled 7500 school kits. This is a wonderful ministry and we hope you will support it with your donations just as heartily as you did when you filled the bags. If you would like to make a donation through us, just make the checks payable to *Wooster Mennonite Women*. We thank you.

Loretta Baur brought us a lesson called "Receiving and Giv-

ing" from I Corinthians 3. Gratitude inspires generosity. We then voted on our slate of officers for 2008-2009. They are: President, Carolyn Reed, Vice President, Carol Yoder and Sec/Treas. Joann Hershberger. Finally, we measured and labeled all our projects for distribution to the Relief Sale and Adriel School.

We enjoyed lunch brought by Ora Rugani.

Joann Hershberger

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## Come and "Check Out" Some Books from your Church Library

This summer many books have been added to the library. If you want more information about a book of the Bible, devotional thoughts for the day, or a book to read in your down time, come to the little room beside the sanctuary. You will be surprised at what you can find.

Thank you to everyone who has donated books to the library this year. If you have a book or author you would like to see in the library, please let your librarian know.

**Mystery Book?** If you know the author and title of the book this excerpt was taken from, please write down the information with your name and return to my mailbox. For all correct answers, there will be a small prize.



*"Go on, \_\_\_\_\_, she had said to me, ask questions, never be afraid of truth. Ask questions of yourself and of me. Go back to David and to Neil and ask them more questions. Yes, and your school children too. You'd be surprised how much children can teach us ossified adults, if we'd only stop to listen. And ask God. Ask Him ultimate questions - about the why of things; about your place in the world; about life and death. Ask, \_\_\_\_\_, ask. Seek. You'll find. The promise is sure."*

Keep on reading!  
Kim Weaver

# Bible School 2008

“BE BOLD, God is with you” was the theme for Bible School this year. Through drama and story telling along with some active participation, we learned about Jeremiah, Ruth, Mary and Joseph, Peter, and Ananias. These people from Bible times all found themselves in scary places and made the choice to BE BOLD and do what God asked, in spite of their fears.

Our first session started Sunday morning during Sunday School time with a drama. Then we headed outside to tie-dye t-shirts. We were happy for the good weather; since it stormed later during the worship service.

Our Bible School continued Monday through Thursday evening. We had worship time where we worked on Bible memory verses, sang, and listened to Bible stories. It was interesting to see the different ways to present the story - drama to human “buttons” who responded with sounds when their “button” was pushed. Our offering this year was boxes of crayons for People to People. Bible Connection activities planned and led by Doug and Jen Yoder, included sand art, and a scavenger hunt, as well as fun and games outside.

It was gratifying to see volunteers come through to make Bible School possible this year.

Thank you EVERYONE! May God richly bless you one and all. The following were involved in Bible School as students, volunteers, and food donators: Adrienne & Eileen Ramsay, Alisa, Evan & Janet Miller, Braxton, Casey & Logan Freeman, Cindy Bay, Deb Murphy, Doug, Jen, Micah, & Jacob Yoder, Emmy Rupp, Equaill Wells, Esther Hershberger, Harriet Noblit, Herb & Judy Hover, John & Julie Longacre, Kim Weaver, Leona Horst, Lindsey Reinford, Pinkie Brown, Reed & Sam Yoder, Shante’ Edwards, Shaquez Murphy, Allie, Andre, Neveah, Nykole.

Esther Hershberger



## Quick Health Facts

*Use sunscreen, even in the car*

- ☀ Car windows block only UVB rays. UVA rays – the kind that can cause skin cancer, age spots, and wrinkles – can easily pass through rear and side car windows. Front windshields have a plastic interleaf to prevent shattering that absorbs most UVA rays.
- ☀ Children are especially vulnerable because they usually sit in the back seat and spend more time in the sun anyway.
- ☀ For long trips, make sure you and your passengers apply a sunscreen of at least SPF 15 that blocks both UVA and UVB rays.





## Kid Prayers

Dear God: Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you have now? Jane

Dear God: Who draws the lines around the countries? Nan

Dear God: I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? Neil

Dear God: I want to be just like my daddy when I get big, but not with so much hair all over. Sam

Dear God: I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying. Elliott

Dear God: I bet it is very hard for you to love all the people of the world. There are only four people in my family and I can never do it. Nan

Dear God: My brother told me about being born, but it doesn't sound right. He is just kidding, isn't he? Marsha

Dear God: Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy. Neil

## Lightning Bugs

What is the deal with lightening bugs? I mean, here is this rather ordinary looking flying insect, but wait... they have a glow-in-the-dark rear end! What was God thinking?

I'm sure God has all kinds of explanations about how this fluorescent fanny is useful for mating and other stuff, but why did God choose to make the lightning bug glow?

I have a feeling it may be quite simple. I wonder if, when God was creating all the animals and everything around us, he came up with the idea of the lightning bug and said, "The kids are gonna love this."

We know God loves us enough to create all the things we need to survive, but does God love us so much he created some things just to make us smile? Just seeing lightning bugs takes me back to those warm summer nights of my youth. I'd be running around the back yard with my empty Mason jar, racing toward the flashing lights all around me. I can still feel the joy and hear the laughter echoing through my memories.

Lightning bugs were as much a part of summer as fireworks, fresh tomatoes, and big ice-cold slabs of juicy watermelon. God created so much diversity in this world, much more than is needed for mere survival. He made all of this for us, and he wants us to enjoy it.

We can get so busy surrounding ourselves with man-made goods that we don't notice the living tapestry God has laid out all around us. I guess lightning bugs do have a purpose after all. They are a reminder of a creative God who loves us so much, that he would even paint the rear end of a bug... just to see us smile.

Credited to Ruth Ann Martinelli

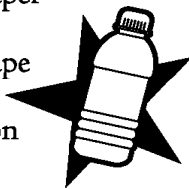
Submitted by Mary Hershberger

# REFRESHING ★ SUMMER ★ ACTIVITY

Try this activity with your Sunday school. It's a fun way to give people more than just a cold drink. It helps them learn about the Bible and your church.

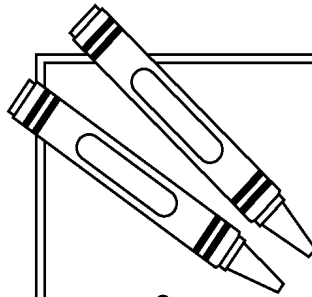
## What you need:

- Bottled water
- Tubs or ice chest filled with ice
- Printed labels or cut pieces of paper the same size as the existing water-bottle label
- Permanent markers (if you're not using preprinted labels)
- Clear contact paper
- Scissors
- Clear packing tape
- Poster board
- Adult supervision



## What to do:

1. On labels or pieces of paper, write a verse about the living water Jesus gives us (for example, John 4:13-14; John 6:35; Revelation 22:17). Also include your church's name and contact information, as well as an invitation to worship or to an activity.
2. Either laminate the new labels or cover them in clear contact paper (to keep them from getting soggy).
3. Tape the labels to the back of the bottles.
4. Make a "FREE Water!" poster.
5. Find a park, local festival or corner where people pass by needing a cold drink. Be sure to have adult supervision.



Just for **KIDS**

# The Water of Life

To beat the summer heat, we're often refreshed by a cold drink. Complete the puzzle below for a reminder of what Jesus offers us when we thirst.

KEY:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

"

19+4 10-2 10+5 10-5 18+4 1+4 20-2 8+1 12+7

18+2 1+7 10-1 20-2 18+1 20-0 26-1 6+6 5-0 10+10

4+4 8+1 8+5 1+2 10+5 15-2 1+4 0+1 7+7 1+3

26-3 7+1 20-5 2+3 21+1 6-1 19-1

21+2 9+0 18+1 10-2 7-2 15+4 10+2 7-2 17+3

6+2 11-2 11+2 20+0 2-1 9+2 8-3 22-2 11-3 2+3

3+3 22-4 5-0 1+4 3+4 7+2 9-3 9+11 14+1 8-2

23-3 12-4 8-3 21+2 4-3 20-0 10-5 20-2 13+2 4+2

5+7 12-3 9-3 6-1 " *Revelation 22:17, NIV*

Answer: "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17, NIV

The Wooster Window  
A publication of Wooster Mennonite Church  
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