

**THE SECOND
CENTURY
CHRONICLE**



July 2014

EAST UNION MENNONITE CHURCH

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Patricia E. de Jong in *Leading from Within: Poetry that Sustains the Courage to Lead*, writes, "living in...a spiritual community comes with the joy and cost of love and mourning." She is writing about people who leave the community to go to their heavenly home. But the same sentiment seems to hold with interim ministry. It is a joy to come and serve a congregation for a limited time, and then we must grieve a little when our interim time ends!

I want to say a huge THANK YOU to East Union for the way you have welcomed and embraced Roger, Alex, Vince and I over the past five months. It has been a pleasure to serve as your pastor. We have very much enjoyed your lively conversations, fine Iowa hospitality and a chance to be part of a congregation where many interesting things are happening. You do truly have "a goodly heritage." I look forward to hearing how God will continue to work in you in the years ahead. It has been a blessing to have this time to ponder weekly what the Word of God might be saying to East Union.

I will miss all of you as I return to New York, but I feel confident in the continued thriving of East Union as I pass the baton of pastoral care and leadership to Firman Gingerich. I wish you many blessings as you continue to follow Christ, and seek to share the light of hope in this community!

Grace and Peace,
Sonya Stauffer Kurtz

On June 20 and 21, East Union was transformed into SonTreasure Island for our annual Vacation Bible School program. Forty-five children participated in Bible stories, crafts, games, and songs. We had two delicious meals and very creative snacks! Everyday we watched as Captain Cooky, Krumbs, Coco, and Gil looked for the hidden treasure on the island only to find out that God's love is the greatest treasure. We collected money to purchase a school of fish through Heifer International. On Sunday, the students presented a program to the congregation that had music drama and a slide show of pictures from the weekend.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in all of the many ways during Bible School. Everyone worked very hard to make it a great week!

Discover God's Love at **SonTreasure
Island**

Our History



~ 60 years ago: 1954 ~

July 11 – There will be no Sunday evening services here at the Church during the Tent Revivals. The meetings have been well attended with good interest.

July 18 – Bro. and Sister Royal Snyder who have been engaged in work in Puerto Rico are visiting at the home of Mrs. Snyder's sister, Mrs. Leo Hershberger. Bro. Snyder will speak this morning about the work in Puerto Rico.

~ 50 years ago: 1964 ~

July 5 – MYFers be sure to come to Wallace Fishers home Wednesday at 7:45 p.m. John Duerksen will be speaker on "The History of Music in Evangelical Churches." There will also be Special Music and group singing.

July 12 – There will be a bean canning here at the Church, Tuesday. Your surplus beans and help will be appreciated.

July 26 – Thanks to the 22 women who turned out to help can 118 qt. beans. – Canning Comm.

~ 40 years ago: 1974 ~

July 7 – This morning we are meeting in our remodeled fellowship hall to allow for remodeling of our church sanctuary. Plans are to have our auditorium completed by mid Aug. We suggest that anyone going to the Mother's Room or the north balcony room should use the new steps rather than the east steps.

July 28 – The rosebud this morning is for Gregory John Yoder born to Phil and Judy Yoder, July 20.

~ 30 years ago: 1984 ~

July 1 – Lonnie will be taking the final month of his sabbatical beginning tomorrow, July 2. During this time Lonnie and Teresa will also attend the Mennonite World Conference in France.

July 8 – MYF will be having a car wash Saturday, July 14, at the Kalona Sale Barn, 9:30 am – 4pm.

Mennonite Women meeting

Tuesday, July 1, 2014.

Brave Friends: Mary and Martha

Scripture: John 11:1-44; 12:1-11;

Luke: 10:38-42

Devotional leader: Wanda Miller

Project: Cash for Mennonite Women

Central Plains Scholarships

~ Sack lunch

*Forgiveness is the greatest
expression of love.*



It has come to our attention that there are a number of people who regularly attend East Union who have never joined the congregation. The elders have been working their way through a list of regularly attending non-members to see if they might be interested in joining a membership instruction class, or transferring their membership to East Union from Mennonite Churches in another community. If you fit the description of a regularly attending non-member and we haven't yet approached you to discuss possible church membership, please feel free to talk to one of the elders or Firman. We anticipate a membership class beginning sometime this fall.





Who's that in the Pew Next to You?

This month we are starting a new column called "Who's That in the Pew Next to You?" We thought this would be a great tool in getting to know better those you worship with on a weekly basis. Although I am normally only here during the week when the church is empty, I thought this might be a good opportunity for some of you folks to get to know me a little better...so I will go first! Each month I will randomly choose 1 adult and 1 young person to 'interview' for this column...so be prepared...you may be hearing from me soon! ~Crystal

"What is your favorite thing about EU?"

East Union is very special to me in that here is where I started my walk with Jesus. I remember enjoying Sunday School, Children's Time, as well as many years of Bible School as a child. Hearing about Jesus at EU helped lay the foundation to know Him personally.

"What are the 3 words that best describe you?"

Passionate. Happy. Sing-Songy.

"What is something most people wouldn't know about you?"

The question I've been asked the most since becoming Office Manager has been 'Where do you go to church?' For the past 5 years my family and I have attended a small church in Cedar Rapids called Harvest Life Christian Fellowship. I help lead worship there on Sunday mornings and my husband leads a small bible study.

"If you could visit one place in the world, where would it be?"

I love England. I've been there multiple times to visit family and would go back in a heartbeat.

"What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?"

I don't know what 'spare time' is really. When I'm not here in the office, I'm a wife & mother with all that entails. I also own my own business called 'Square Wear' making jewelry and other items out of recycled game pieces. If you attend Arts & Craft shows and/or Farmer's Markets...you're bound to see me as I do many throughout the year.

"What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?"

McDonalds Reeses' McFlurry...yum!

"What is your favorite Bible verse?"

Isaiah 61:1 "For the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and to release the prisoners from darkness."

"What else would you like people to know about you?"

I would like people to know that if there's anything you need from me, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I'm here to serve you! I have so appreciated the grace & kindness shown me since I started work here and have truly enjoyed getting to know many of the people here at East Union!



My husband Andy, son Brandon, daughters Ella & Liana and myself at Brandon's graduation from Mid-Prairie in May.

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