



# The Vine

July 2016

*Becoming a community through which God's healing and hope can flow to the world*

## **First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana**

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Compiled by: Amber Anderson



Dear Congregation,

We are delighted to share in the work of ministering among and alongside you. You may be wondering how we will share the responsibilities that come with this work. We spent time these last months consulting with you (remember those evaluations?) and the Pastoral Support Committee, listening carefully for each of our gifts and passions, and receiving the blessing of Church Council for this work. Here is a brief outline of how the new pastoral team is configured:

Pastor Michael is now the lead pastor and will be doing much of the preaching, administrative leadership, and interaction with the local interfaith community. He connects with the Christian Education, Service & Outreach, Property & Finance, and Colombia Sister Church Committees, and leads both the men's Bible study and the MYF Sunday school. He works fulltime.

Pastor Deb is the associate pastor and will be responding to many of the pastoral care needs. She will be relating to the Worship and the Hospitality and Fellowship committees, will coordinate the Taize services, offer group and individual spiritual direction, and coordinate the young adult fellowship and Sunday school. She works two-thirds time.

We are both available to talk about whatever joys, concerns, or questions you would like to share or discuss. Call, text, email, or drop by the church. We do our best to cover day-time office availability, but if you do drop in, please know that we may be in a meeting or have been called away; you can always contact us in advance to schedule an appointment. Deb plans to be in the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 2:30. Michael plans to be in the office Tuesday 8:30-12:30 and Wednesday-Friday 8:30-5:30. The church office is open Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm.

We would like to walk beside you when life's emergencies arise. Pastor Deb will be doing most of the emergency pastoral care, so please call or text her cell phone if an emergency arises (217-369-6142). If she is unavailable, feel free to give Pastor Michael a call or text (501-269-6369). Please let us know in advance if you have a scheduled surgery or procedure, and we will be glad to pray with or for you as well as to be present for major procedures.

With joy,

Your (not-new-but-not-exactly-the-same) pastors  
Deb and Michael





# Fall Church Retreat

Our all-church retreat is coming this fall – and registration opens soon! The dates are Friday evening, October 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday noon, October 9<sup>th</sup>. (You may even want to stay to help with the demolition of the old dorms on Columbus Day, October 10<sup>th</sup>.; the additional night’s lodging and meals are free for volunteers.)

The retreat committee is busy planning – there will be a 5K race, a bonfire, a hayrack ride, great meals, a ping-pong tournament, singing, rock-climbing, boating, Bible study, a nature walk, worship, yoga, art, and lots of free time to explore, visit and relax!

The theme of the retreat is “Fearless and Faithful”; the Scripture is from Matthew 25:1-14, where Jesus tells the parable of the talents. And we will spend some time looking at how God might be inviting us at FMC to use our money and our energy boldly and faithfully.

In the meantime, you have all been given \$2.00 to use to multiply for God’s kingdom. Spend this money for a project that will make more, or at least donate it to a group that will use it well. The multiplied money we collect at the retreat will go toward the 100<sup>th</sup> Habitat build in CU, an interfaith project.

I plan to use my money (and a little from a few others), to host an all-church recital. I will use the money for refreshments and a program, and all FMC musicians of any level are invited to play or sing. The event will be free, with a donation of any amount requested. I am tentatively thinking of August 28<sup>th</sup> for this special event.

So mark your calendars, see a member of the retreat committee if you have any questions, and plan for a refreshing weekend with your FMC family in October!

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## New in the Library

### Children's

*Let's Talk About Race*, by Julius Lester

*The Lion and Lamb Peace Center: visual art collection*, DVD (donated by Laura Brenneman)

### Adult

*Extending the Table*, by Joetta Handrich Schlabach

*Racism: the power of an illusion*, documentary DVD

*More-With-Less*, by Doris Janzen Longacre (both donated by Rhonda Gibson)

*The Hope-filled Parent*, by Michael Trout (DVD)

*Stumbling Over the Cross*, by Joni Sancken (donated by Joni Sancken)

*Positive Discipline, Positive Time-out, Positive Discipline for Teenagers*, all by Jane Nelsen

*Christian. Muslim. Friend.*, by David Shenk (donated by Mary Krick)

*Raising Self-reliant Children in a Self-indulgent World*, by Stephen Glenn and Jane Nelsen

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## Abounding in Love ... Abiding in Grace: CDC Annual Meeting

“The Ministerial Committee ministers to the ministers of CDC by offering supportive ministry to those ministers as they minister in their ministry locations and carry out their respective ministries in those ministry locations as ministers to whom we on the Ministerial Committee minister.” If you had been at the Central District Conference Annual Meeting last week you would have heard this tongue in cheek statement by Ron Adams, of the the Ministerial Committee. There was business at the conference and there were committees, but work was dispatched with efficiency and humor. However, the primary purpose of the conference came, for me, during worship and in being with the church gathered. I was blessed to be one of four from our congregation (Randy, Jill Schreiber, and Gordon Oyer being the others) to attend this meeting in Columbus, OH June 23 - 25. **Abounding in Love... Abiding in Grace** was the theme of the conference and the meaning of these words and the implementation of them were repeated often as we were together.

First the worship. There were 3 worship services of a style familiar to ours with a variety of participants, lots of music, sweet time with children, confessions, and affirmations. Scriptures for the three sermons came from Luke 8: 1-14, 16-25, and 26 - 39. Mark Rupp from Columbus, OH preached “Ode to a Seed” challenged us to move beyond Jesus’s agronomic advice or obediently husbanding our own soil to consider the seeds that fall outside the “good soil” and yet bear good fruit. Brenda Sawatzy-Paetkau from Goshen, IN invited us to “see with kingdom eyes,” boldly and with faith. Charles Bontrager from Wadsworth, OH asked us to ponder the demons that occupy each of us and the occupations in which we participate and to return home, as Jesus asked the man possessed, and speak of that which God has done. Phil Hart wrote music for children and we learned it. Lois Kauffman was showered with rose petals. Cincinnati Mennonite dra-

matically portrayed scripture. We danced, prayed, and shared communion. The pews in this sanctuary in the round were graced by over 180 colorful comforters made by the Columbus Mennonite Church Piecemakers for distribution to refugees.

To attend to the business. Lois Kaufmann, outgoing Conference Minister, was appreciated and blessed, deservedly, with great frequency. Doug Luginbill, new Conference Minister, was introduced. Slates were approved, a tenor Nafziger who looked much like our own Emerson reported the finances, camp and committees reported, words came from MCUSA, congregational stories were told, and even a few votes were taken. Candles were lit to honor pastors who had died and new pastors/leaders were celebrated.

Lisa Weaver, CDC Board President, informed us of the upcoming peer review to be undertaken by MCUSA as a result of the licensing of Mark Rupp as Associate Pastor at Columbus Mennonite Church. He is a person in a same sex relationship. Several spoke on this topic throughout the weekend. Most approach the process with some concern, but see it as an opportunity to share the good news of the gospel and report on the congregational process of faithful discernment that led to this action.

We learned. Dr. Alex Awad, a Palestinian Christian gave the plenary address and delegates were offered a choice of 4 seminars: Come and See Tour Report (Israel and Palestine), Immigration/Border Issues, Archiving Congregational Documents, and the Human Sexuality in Biblical Perspective; a Study Guide (a CDC document soon to be published.)

We listened. There was an overly-brief Open Mic time near the end of the Delegate Sessions and good words of varying perspective were spoken.

Of course. We ate good cookies, had a time for music, met up with folks we knew and got acquainted





with new ones. Runners ran and golfers golfed and Mennonite Men and Mennonite Women dined in fine tradition. We appreciated the humor and variety of Central District Conference where 39 congregations from 10 states find a home. We were grateful to have been received the invitation to “abound in love and abide in grace.” Thanks be to God.

—M.E. Nelson 7.2.16

Marcia has provided an overview of the conference so that leaves me free to express some of my general perceptions. Until last year I had had limited contact with the broader Mennonite Church. Attending World Mennonite Conference in 2015 and CDC last month were both very good experiences but in different ways. One couldn't be sure what the talk of inclusion at World Mennonite Conference really meant but there was no doubt in Columbus. During the open-mic time, it was expressed that CDC needs to make sure that we are reaching out to those in the Mennonite Church who are not aligned with our stance on welcoming LGBT people. A welcoming church must be welcoming to all. We had a 1.5 hour workshop using the final chapter of the soon to be published Human Sexuality in Biblical Perspective Study Guide entitled “Moral Choices for Believers” without distinguishing among those of different sexual orientation. In all aspects of the discussion with the Church and especially in upcoming peer review of CDC, it was highlighted how critically important it is that that conversation include LGBT people. We would not seek to resolve the issues of race relations with only white people doing the talking.

There were only 3 votes for the delegates and all passed unanimously. I think the delegates are supposed to vote a combination of their congregation's wishes and their own conscience. Not polling the congregation before the conference, I was forced to rely on the latter. Approving the budget and changing the constitution to allow the hosting congregation to plan

worship seemed like appropriate votes to follow the masses. I considered voting against reducing the number of members on the Missional Church Committee from 9 to 7 but thought there were probably better ways of bringing attention to FMC.

The times of worship were certainly the highlight of the conference. Much of the singing was a-cappella and I missed the creative accompaniment that enhances our singing at FMC. There were exceptional worship leaders and preachers. FMC has not cornered the market on remarkable, young clergy and that encourages optimism for the future of CDC and the Mennonite Church.

One church withdrew from CDC and Mennonite Church USA in the past year and that is cause for concern. In conversations at the conference, I learned that this process is undertaken by some congregation with much discernment but in others with little conversation. The latter are the most troubling and raise some doubts about the future for Mennonite Church USA. The impending peer review of CDC by the Constituency Leaders Council is a time of some apprehension but it also viewed as a time for constructive dialogue that may lead to better understanding and not further division.

It was good to be a participant in the CDC annual meeting where it is expected that you will bring your own water bottle or coffee mug or write your name on a paper cup so it is reused, where I learned from other Mennonites what it means to be faithful, where I was inspired by other's commitments, and where I was welcomed by friends that I didn't know before.

—Randy Nelson 7.2.16





## A Mighty Fortress Is Our Janet/Janet, Janet We Adore Thee (A Mighty Fortress is our God and Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee)

1. A mighty fortress is our Janet;  
a pastor never failing.  
Our helper, she is always there  
in person or by emailing.  
Now as she doth retire,  
we formed this holy choir  
to sing her praises loud.  
Of her we are so proud.  
She will be missed at FMC.

2. A mighty fortress is our Janet;  
her language is amazing.  
She speaks and writes with equal grace,  
at ease with preaching or praising.  
Her Harvard PhD  
is evident to me.  
Never a loss for words,  
she relates well to nerds.  
A real communicator.

3. A mighty fortress is our Janet;  
a first-born child, she leads us.  
Our helper through the storms of life;  
she's always there to feed us.  
We'll miss her when we share  
her gift of heartfelt prayer.  
Her years at FMC  
have made her family,  
She won't soon be forgotten.

4. A mighty fortress is our Janet;  
her fame is spreading far and wide.  
Her high school Hall of Fame she earned;  
an honor that she takes in stride.  
From Harvard in the east  
to parts of the northwest,  
this humble Paxton girl  
has really stood the test.  
We're pleased to call her one of our own.

5. A mighty fortress also is Mark;  
this Quaker makes her life complete.  
Her soul mate it would seem she found;  
in months he swept her off her feet.  
He fits her like a glove;  
no doubt they are in love.  
They say it was a dance  
that started this romance.  
How nice they found each other.

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6. Janet, Janet, we adore thee,  
as we send you on your way.  
Now you will be a retiree,  
new horizons this we pray.  
Busyness won't be your mantra;  
soon you'll be above the fray.  
Might you think of adding contra dancing  
to start every day?

7. Janet, Janet we look for you  
to stay active when retired.  
Sitting on the sidelines is not  
how we know that you are wired.  
Now you'll have time to volunteer  
for causes that you care about.  
Dedicated to peace and serving,  
that is beyond any doubt.

8. Thou art leaving for a time  
suggests the church-wide polity.  
We will miss you for these months, friends,  
promise that you will return.  
Melt the months of formal absence;  
keep you safe in your new home.  
We look forward to reconnecting,  
until then we say shalom!

**Music:** Martin Luther, 1529  
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1823

**Text:** Martin Luther, 1529  
Henry van Dyke, 1907  
**Clark Breeze, 2016**





## Youth Service Trip to Harlan, KY

**July 4 - 9, 2016**

Our youth are working with SWAP, a service and learning program of MCC/Great Lakes. It is a home repair ministry that serves low-income families in several counties of southeastern Kentucky and West Virginia.

The youth will share about their experience during our July 17th worship service.



**Go girls! Berit, Emily, Anna, and Anya prepare to leave for Harlan with sponsors Mary and Sam.**

