

Christian Fellowship Church Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016



1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."



What a Friend We Have in Jesus Joseph M Scriven

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be no need for prayer
Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.

Irish born Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1896) was 25 years old, in love and to be married. The day before his wedding his fiancé died in a tragic drowning accident. Heartbroken, Joseph sailed from his homeland to start a new life in Canada. While in Canada working as a teacher, he fell in love again and became engaged to Eliza Roche, a relative of one of his students. Once again, Joseph's hopes and dreams were shattered when Eliza became ill and died before the wedding could take place.

Although one can only imagine the turmoil within this young man, history tells us that his faith in God sustained him. Soon after Eliza's death Joseph joined the Plymouth Brethren and began preaching for a Baptist church. He never married, but spent the remainder of his life giving all his time, money and even the clothes off his own back to help the less fortunate and to spread the love and compassion of Jesus wherever he went.

Around the same time that Eliza died, Joseph received word from Ireland that his mother was ill. He could not go to be with her, so he wrote a letter of comfort and enclosed one of his poems entitled *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

Many years later a friend was sitting with Joseph, as he was very ill. During this visit, the friend was very impressed when he ran across his poems, including *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. As a result of this visit, almost 30 years after his letter of comfort to his mother, Joseph's poems were published in a book called *Hymns and Other Verses*. Soon thereafter, noted musician Charles C. Converse (1834-1918) put music to one of those poems: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

After Joseph Scriven's death, the citizens of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, where he gave so much of himself, erected a monument to his life. The seemingly sad and obscure life of one man resulted in so many lives being uplifted, both in his own time, and for many years after whenever the beautiful and comforting words of *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* are sung.

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From the Pastors Desk

Sunday School:

My passion in life and as a pastor is teaching the Bible so in this newsletter I wanted to share with you a little bit about the teaching that is and will be going on at CFC in the coming months. Beginning in September an Adult Sunday School class began that is travelling through our Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith. This document speaks about what we believe regarding 18 different articles of our Christian faith. These articles include:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| -God | -Revelation of God | -Creation and Humanity |
| -Sin and Evil, Salvation | -Nature of the Church | -Mission of the Church |
| -Christian Baptism | -Lord's Supper | -Marriage, Singleness and Family |
| -Discipleship | -Society and State | -Love and Nonresistance |
| -Stewardship | -Sanctity of Human Life | -Work, Rest and the Lord's Day |
| -Christianity and Other Faiths | | -Christ's Final Triumph. |

I know for many of you a document like this probably sounds dry and boring but I would beg to differ. There is value in knowing how to articulate our Christian convictions and there is beauty in being reminded of God's truth. This is a beautifully unifying and edifying document. I would encourage each of you to pick up a copy of our Confession of Faith, read it for yourselves, and attend these classes. And if at any point you have a question about what our Confession states I would love to hear from you and wrestle together with God's Word.

This series in our Confession of Faith will last until December. Adult Sunday School will resume in January where we will have a new series.

Sermon Series:

I also want to take this opportunity to speak to our upcoming sermon series'. We are currently in the letter of Colossians and will be finishing this series up in late November. From here we will spend the Advent season looking at the Christmas story through the lenses of some of the major characters: Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds, and the Magi and Herod. Each Sunday we will spend time admiring the beauty and glory of Christ's coming through the eyes of these characters.

In the New Year and for the whole of 2017 and perhaps beyond we will be traveling through the entire Bible...kind of. You probably know by now that I love and find beauty in the details of God's Word. I love to sit with a passage and try to mine its depths. This is a beautiful and necessary way to hear God speak to us through his Word. But just as beautiful and necessary is hearing God speak through the overall narrative of Scripture. The whole Bible tells us the story of God and his actions in world history to bring a people to himself to bless and dwell with. From Genesis to Revelation we see one Story of God and it is vital to our understanding of God's Word that we see the overall narrative of it. For this reason I want us to spend 2017 travelling through the Bible to gain an appreciation for and understanding of the grand narrative of Scripture. We obviously won't tackle every passage as this would take much longer than a year to do. But we will travel from Genesis to Revelation and understand the movement of God over the course of Biblical history. We will study the beginning when God created our world and us. We will see how humanity fell from paradise and sin and brokenness entered our world. We will see how God went about his plan to redeem and restore by revealing himself to the people of Israel from the time of Abraham, through the Exodus, through the period of the Judges and Kings and Prophets, to their exile and return. We will see how the coming of Jesus and his life, death, and resurrection was the center of God's plan of redemption. We will see how his people carried on after he ascended to heaven. We will see how we fit into this story in the age of the Church. And finally we will look at our future hope of Christ's glorious return when the plan will come to completion and we will dwell with our God forever. Looking forward to this journey with you!

Pastor Brad Schroeder

The most beautiful instrument in any Christian service is the sound of the congregation singing.

5 REASONS CONGREGATIONAL SINGING IS IMPORTANT

By Dr. Frank Garlock | May 03, 2013

1. IT UNIFIES THE CONGREGATION

At the dedication of the second temple as recorded in 2 Chronicles 5:13, the Bible tells us, *“The trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound.”* Even Robert Shaw, the greatest choral conductor of the twentieth century, said, *“That’s the point of a choir or a congregation, doing the same thing together at the same time.”*

Churches today have people coming from different backgrounds and from distractions and complications of living in the twenty-first century. When the congregation meets, the best way to get everyone thinking together and preparing their hearts to hear the Word of God is congregational singing that is heartfelt and vibrant. It can also a way of reinforcing the gospel message to unsaved visitors.

2. IT IS A GREAT WAY TO PRAISE THE LORD

2 Chronicles 5:13 goes on to say, *“To be heard in praising and thanking the Lord.”*

This is a recurring theme in the Bible. When people are right with God, they always seek to praise Him, and one of the best ways for a congregation to do this is by singing heartily together. Jesus said, *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh,”* (Matthew 12:34). Because Paul and Silas were right with God and doing His will, they could sing “praises to God,” even after they had been beaten and were in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:23-25).

Proverbs 29:6 unequivocally says, *“The righteous doth sing and rejoice.”* Does not that principle seem to imply that a congregation whose hearts are right with the Lord will produce music that is characterized by heart-felt singing that glorifies their Saviour?

3. IT IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO PRAY TOGETHER

Ephesians 5:19 tells us some of the activities that Spirit-filled Christians engage in, *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”* Think of the marvelous blessing that can come to a congregation as the people with one voice sing a song like “Nearer, Still Nearer,” “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart,” or even “The Lord’s Prayer” itself. Any good hymn book will have many songs that can unite a congregation in prayer.

4. IT SOLIDIFIES AND TEACHES SPIRITUAL TRUTH

Colossians 3:16 says, *“Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,”* and *“singing with grace in your hearts,”* will help the *“word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.”* To quote Robert Shaw again, *“The basic premise of music is communication...expressible best by music or possibly even only by music.”* This is also the main reason we should be certain our congregational songs are doctrinally correct.

5. IT CAN AID IN REVIVAL

Psalms 85 is titled “To the chief Musician,” and verse 6 says, *“Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”* A study of revivals in the Bible and great revivals of the past reveals that they have always been characterized by live, vital, and fervent congregational singing. Henry Halley’s *Bible Handbook* admonishes its readers: *“Under proper leadership, the hymns of a vast congregation could be made to rise like the swell of an ocean’s roar, and cause angels in Heaven to lean over and listen.”*

In the book of Nehemiah, (which emphasizes the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the national revival that accompanied it) music and singing play such a large part in the revival that it is mentioned more than twenty times.

In Nehemiah 8 we find many of the elements that are necessary for revival: the reading of the Word of God (verses 5–8), the people bowing their heads and worshipping the Lord with their faces to the ground (verse 6), the people weeping over their sin as they heard the Word of God (verse 9), and finally, the glorious result of true revival as the Lord works in hearts, *“For the joy of the Lord is your strength”* (verse 10). The singers then sang, *“Songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God”* (12:46).

Let’s pray that God would revive churches today with a resurgence of congregational singing that exalts Him!

WE BELIEVE

We believe in God as eternal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created and sustains the universe. The eternal purpose of God the Father is to create a people who will bring glory to God forever. God alone is worthy of worship.

We believe that God became human in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to restore the world because humans have rejected God in disobedience. Jesus taught and modeled the way of God's kingdom. He died on the cross, making it possible for us to accept a renewed relationship with God. He rose from the dead, broke the power of sin and death, and frees us to live in obedience to God's will.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit invites all people to be reconciled with God and to join the global family of faith. Believers confess their faith, are baptized, and join in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and guided by the Bible, members of the church seek to live as followers of Christ and invite others to experience this new life.

As Christians, we look forward to the day when God will once again send Jesus to bring all things under God's eternal rule.

THE MENNONITE BRETHERN CONFESSION OF FAITH

The MB church emphasizes the centrality of biblical authority, articulating confessions of faith in order to connect scriptural teaching with contemporary discipleship.

The MB Confession of Faith describes how the MB church interprets the Bible for our context and is an authoritative guide for biblical interpretation, theological identity and ethical practice. The Bible is our written authority. As Anabaptists, we believe authoritative interpretation of the Bible is the result of corporate reflection

The Daily Bonnet

The Daily Bonnet is a Mennonite satirical news site from the heart of the Bible belt, Steinbach, Manitoba. Apart from the names of local and international celebrities, all characters and situations presented are entirely fictitious.

We thank you for your interest, but we currently don't have the oxen-power to accept submissions.

under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The MB Confession of Faith is the result of such a process.

Friesen-Friesen Wedding is Well-Attended by Local Friesens

STEINBACH, MB

Hundreds of Friesens from throughout southeast Manitoba descended on the local EMBC church this past Saturday to attend the wedding of Benjamin Friesen and Anna Friesen (no relation).

"I'm so excited to see Friesen marry Friesen (no relation)," said Mrs. Friesen of Grunthal. "I just knew those two were meant for each other."

Friesen, 25, proposed to Friesen (no relation), 24, at the Friesen farm this past spring, and the couple has been planning the Friesen-Friesen wedding ever since.

"The usher asked whether I wanted to sit on the Friesen or the Friesen (no relation) side," said Mrs. Friesen (no relation to the aforementioned Mrs. Friesen). "I didn't get how the usher couldn't tell just by looking at me that I was a Friesen (no relation). I mean, it's obvious. I have the Friesen (no relation) nose."

The seating confusion came after the Friesen side seemed to fill up quite quickly. After a while the ushers discreetly sat some Friesens on the Friesen (no relation) side just to fill it up.

"Eventually the Friesens (no relation) and Friesens were all mixed up," said usher Timothy Friesen. "But I guess it's okay that the Friesens get to know each other."

The bride announced that after the wedding, she will be known as 'Anna Friesen-Friesen (no relation),' although more conservative relatives have wondered why she couldn't have just taken her husband's name like a good Mennonite.

What the youth and some young adults are up to.....

Josh Bergen is attending Liberty University in Virginia, taking Business/Project Management and playing hockey.

Danielle Bergen is currently between Saskatoon and Drake, working three different jobs and applying for school in January.

Shaunti Bergen is attending the U of S in her final year of mechanical engineering.

Aaron Willems is starting his third year Kiniesiology at U of S.

Alyssa Willems has started her third year in Education at the U of S.

Adam Willems is working for a landscaping company.

Ashten Eby is back attending Briercrest. Has this year to go and a few more classes to take before she is finished. She had a very good summer. The trip to Germany was very demanding and was a tired lady when she got home but thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Ericka Larsen is planning on going to the U of R but likely won't be until next year. Is still at home helping out and doing some volunteering and babysitting.

Patrick Larsen and Tait Larsen are both in Regina attending the U of R

Tamara Brabant is back in school here in Lanigan. Wanting to work on some subjects and bring some of her grades up.

Katie Peyton is 17 and in Grade 12. She had a great summer as a leader at Redberry Bible Camp and going, with Dad, to Dad's hometown in Newfoundland and visiting all the relatives.

Kal-El Salapare has graduated basic training with the Canadian Armed Forces and is moving on to next level and to Air Force.....hopefully to eventually make it into the Astronaut program.

LeeLoo Salapare is in Grade 11. She had a great summer including a family trip to Ontario for Kal-El's graduation at CMR Saint-John and included stops in Niagara Falls, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Montreal.

Jeanine Candido is 15 and in Grade 9. She enjoyed camping with other Filipino families this summer and spent time with her grandparents who were here to attend her grade 8 graduation and enjoy the first days of summer.

Emily Riemer is 12 and in Grade 7. Emily takes dance lessons (tap, ballet, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, and hip hop), she also takes piano and voice lessons. Emily's most favorite thing this past summer was...."Going to Dallas Valley Ranch Camp. I was there for one week (July 4-10). They have many fun activities and their Chapel time was exciting. I got to see friends from last year as well as meet and make new friends."

Seija Liimatainen in Grade 7 and enjoys Karate. She found this summer was pretty good all round. Went to Dallas Valley Camp and visited relatives in Ontario. A great summer.

Caleb Melin is 12 and in Grade 7. He really liked time spent at the Oshkidee Family Camp this summer and just had a pretty good summer.

Chloe Melin is 10 and in Grade 5. She found this summer to be a good one all round and liked the Oshkidee Family camp.

Jenevieve Melin is 8 and in Grade 3. Best fun she had was learning to do a 180 on the wakeboard.

Eli Weber is 11 and in Grade 6. He liked the time spent at the Apex trampoline park and reading his books.

Jack Weber is 9 and in Grade 4. He liked catching catfish in Manitoba

Trinity Weber is 7 and in Grade 2. She too liked all the fun at the Apex trampoline park.

Kyler Lone is 9 and in Grade 4. This summer, camping at Pike Lake was great, but Nata's cookies at the farmer's market were a highlight too!

Braxton Lone is 6 and in Grade 1. "I got a hole in one in the Jester's mouth at Putt n' Bounce and won a free game!"

Sophie Olson is 10 and in Grade 5. She had fun swimming, quading and being on the paddle boat this summer.

Vera Olson is 7 and in Grade 2. She had fun swimming, quading and playing on the paddle boat this summer. They like doing pretty well everything together.

Xander Kiefer is 8 and in Grade 3. This summer he liked house boating on the Shuswap Lake in BC, going to the Melins cabin and camping.

Tamia Kiefer is 5 and in Grade 1. This summer fun was camping and going to the race cars and swimming and wakeboarding.

Ella Foster is 4 and in playschool. She really like VBS this summer and camping.

Makenna Foster is 6 and in Grade 1. Riding bikes and VBS were here favourite things this summer

Seth Foster is 6 and in Grade 1. With great enthusiasm he said riding bikes is the best.

Shyla Sheply is 7 and in Grade 2

Kaya and Kayden Shepley are 5 and in Kindergarten

This summer, all of them loved the park, the water slides, tubing, fishing, camping and making new friends when they were camping.

Noah Schroeder is 6 and in Grade 1. He liked taking swimming lessons this summer.

Mika Schroeder is 4 and has started Pre-K. She too liked taking swimming lessons this summer.

Phin Schroeder is 1 and not ready for school yet. He loved playing in the backyard on his new slide.

Roshelle Dalida is 5 and in Kindergarten

Xander Dalida is 2 and in Play school.

Roshelle loves VBS and attended 3 different groups this summer. She had fun with her cousins and especially when one cousin from Kelowna came for a week. Xander had fun with his cousins too, jumping in a bouncy castle during a birthday party. He loves jumping on the trampoline in our backyard. He loves biking with Dad. They usually went to the play park. Both enjoy playing with their little brother.

Christmas is coming,
The geese are getting fat,
Please put a penny
In the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny,
A ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny,
Then God bless you.

CHRISTMAS LOVE
paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls,
but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies,
preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime,
but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity,
but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes,
attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata
but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.
Love is kind, though harried and tired.
Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.
Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.
Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return
but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost,
golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of LOVE will endure.

~ author unknown

Found in one of the Mennonite Girls Cook Books



Returning in May:



Watoto Children's Choir

Friday May 19, 2017 7:00pm

Lanigan Town Hall

This appearance they will be performing at the Lanigan Town Hall so we will be able to enjoy fully their exuberant and exciting performance. Mark your calendars so you won't miss this joyful evening and be sure to invite neighbours and friends.



"Next time Pastor Bob asks if you know what the sermon was about, the answer is not 'about three hours.'"