

# Under Our Roof

April 2017

Volume 25 – Issue 4

Southern Hills Mennonite Church



## KANSAS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE

**APRIL 7, 4 P.M.-8 P.M. & APRIL 8, 8 A.M.-3 P.M.**  
**Hutchinson, Kansas**

It's time to celebrate! The quilts are in and ready for auction. The General Auction has a large variety of vehicles and farm equipment to add to the other donations of homemade furniture and many other items. Join your friends for the weekend of visiting, fellowshiping, eating, and purchasing favorite items throughout the many venues at the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale.

Several projects are still underway. April 2 will be the last day for the "My Coins Count" offering. Volunteers will gather at Moundridge High school on April 1 to make Bona Berrogi for the sale. On April 4, volunteers will meet at the Hillsboro fair grounds to make 20,000 verenike for the sale.

Volunteers throughout the Mennonite, Amish, and Church of the Brethren churches in Kansas have signed up to work before and during the sale. More help is always appreciated. Let the Krehbiels or Funks know if you would still be available for helping out at the sale.

Most of all, enjoy the weekend! It is amazing to see the wide variety of creative projects that can be purchased. All proceeds will be donated to the Mennonite Central Committee for efforts in alleviating hunger and providing both educational programs and relief efforts.

*Judy and Roger Krehbiel  
Joyce and Virg Funk*

### Pastors

#### Whereabouts

- Roger and Cynthia will host the I-70 pastors in their home on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Coming Events

**April 1**, 1:00 p.m.

- Green and Clean Swap Meet

**April 4**, 7:00 p.m.

- Topeka JUMP Rally @ First Baptist Church

**April 7-8**, - Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale in Hutchinson, KS

**April 9**, 9:30 a.m.

- Palm Sunday and Reception of New Members

**April 13**, 6:30 p.m.

- Maundy Thursday supper and service

**April 16**,

- 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

- 10:30 a.m. - Easter Worship Service (no Sunday School classes)

**April 23**, Earth Day Sunday

**April 25**, 7:00 p.m.

- Topeka JUMP's Nehemiah Action Assembly, Grace Cathedral

**April 30**, 9:30 a.m.

- Michele Armster, Director of MCC Central States, guest preacher

**May 7**, 9:30 a.m.

- Dwight Regier, WDC Youth Coordinator, guest preacher

**May 21**, Teacher

Appreciation and Graduate Recognition Sunday

**June 5-9**, Bible School



### **Holy Week Activities**

**Palm Sunday, April 9** - Jesus' entry into Jerusalem will be acted out with palm branches during the children's time. We will also receive new members into our Southern Hills fellowship.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.** - We will gather to remember the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus.

- First we will share a **simple meal** together. Watch the bulletin about what to bring.
- Then we will share in the **Lord's Supper** around the tables. All believers are invited to participate -- you do not have to be a member of Southern Hills.
- Then we will listen to **scripture readings and reflections** about the events leading to the death of Jesus. Roger and Cynthia will show pictures of "The Way of the Cross" ("Via Dolorosa") from their recent trip to Jerusalem.

*The Maundy Thursday service is not designed for young children. Child care will be provided at the church for those families who notify us that they need it – please contact the church office by April 9.*

### **Easter Sunday, April 16**

**Fellowship breakfast, 9:30 a.m.** Again, watch the bulletin for what you should bring.

**Worship service, 10:30 a.m.- We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.**

**You are invited to bring flowers** to decorate the sanctuary. If you wish to bring flowers in honor or memory of someone, please sign the sheet on the office door or call or send a note to the church office with your name and the name of the person you are honoring, so that can be printed in the bulletin. You may take your flowers home with you after the service.

---

### **Church Workday**

Please mark Saturday morning, May 6th, 2017 on your calendars. It will be the church's workday. We will start at 9:00 in the morning and work on things until around noon. Even if you can only come for an hour, please come out and have some fun with us. There will be things for everyone to do so don't be shy, come and join us. It is a great time to work together and to get some small projects completed on our meeting house.

*Jerry Yoder*

---

### **Senior Coffee Schedule**

**Senior coffee** gatherings will be Thursday morning, April 6, and Thursday morning, April 20. Meeting time is 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

---

### **Earth Day Sunday, April 23**

Earth Day is April 22, so we are designating April 23 as Earth Day Sunday. We invite you to bike to church (remember that we are close to the Landon Nature Trail.) Our worship will focus on creation care. This should be a great day to celebrate God's good creation!

## "A Night of Celebrating Justice"

**Nehemiah Action Assembly, Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Grace Cathedral**

The culmination of a year of activity and many months of research and meetings is upon us. **The annual Nehemiah Action Assembly will be held Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m., at Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street.** We hope to fill the Cathedral to its 1,000 person capacity. **But we won't be able to do it without you!!** We need everyone who can possibly come to attend in order to meet our goal of 100 SHMC people, our average Sunday morning worship attendance.

Our Nehemiah Action Assembly will demand action from our public officials. But, more important, the Nehemiah Assembly is an **annual celebration of justice**. Our Nehemiah Action is the largest annual assembly of people of faith in Topeka. We come from many different backgrounds and traditions to obey God's command to **"Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God."**

This year Topeka JUMP will celebrate the progress we have made in three areas of concern that have been identified over the last three years in house meetings across the city.

**Mental Health:** In 2015, our Mental Health Research Team found there is a "revolving door" of people in Shawnee County with mental illnesses. They were being arrested and jailed for minor violations related to their illness, given medications, then released, only to quickly go off those medications (often because they couldn't afford them) and re-offend. So Topeka JUMP asked for more employment services for the mentally ill, which data-based research suggests is a cornerstone for recovery. To demonstrate their support and commitment to expand Supportive Employment, **the Shawnee County Commission restored \$100,000 to mental health services that had been cut in previous years.** This year we plan to ask Valeo Behavioral Services to provide more Supportive Employment services to people in Shawnee County with mental illness.

**Safe and Affordable Housing:** Last year, the Housing Research Team found that, according to federal census data, 10,596 renter families live in unsafe housing conditions in Shawnee County. Data from the City of Topeka (2006) notes that 7,390 families earning less than \$20,000 spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. When presented with the problem at last year's Nehemiah Assembly, **Mayor Larry Wolgast agreed to assemble a Safe and Affordable Housing Task Force**, made up of providers like Cornerstone, Habitat for Humanity and the Topeka Housing Authority to devise solutions for these problems, including research into reinvigorating an affordable housing trust fund, as over 500 cities across the country have done. Mayor Wolgast has created this Task Force and has presided over monthly meetings since June, 2016. **Mayor Wolgast has agreed to give this year's Nehemiah Assembly an update on the work of this Task Force.** Topeka JUMP will also be asking that city officials direct city staff to research a public, dedicated source of income for this affordable housing trust fund.

**Transportation:** The Transportation Research Team has attended numerous planning meetings of local organizations that deal with public transportation. **Susan Duffy, the General Manager of Topeka Metro, will report on efforts to make public transportation available to major businesses and manufacturers south of Topeka.**

Topeka JUMP has many accomplishments to celebrate. **We also have work to do:**

- We need Valeo to step up and provide more Supportive Employment services
- We need the City of Topeka to identify a dedicated revenue source for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- We need public transportation to work places south of Topeka

continued on page 4

**Your attendance at the Nehemiah Assembly on April 25 will communicate to our public officials that we continue to be concerned about these issues, and will demand specific action be taken to alleviate the injustices.**

Parking may be an issue at Grace Cathedral. Member congregations are organizing car pools and shuttle buses from neighboring church parking lots to help alleviate this issue. Watch for details for parking arrangements in the SHMC bulletin.

If you have questions or concerns about this Nehemiah Assembly, feel free to contact SHMC JUMP Team Members Phil Esau, Duane Goossen, Elvera Johnson, John and Lila Bartel, and Doug and Raylene Hinz-Penner.

### **SHMC Council, March 9, 2017**

The SHMC Council met on March 9, 2017, at 6 p.m. Kerry Wedel provided the opening devotional.

Council members reviewed the advertisement for the job of Administrative Specialist; Kerry will put a link on some free job boards, and Raylene will advertise it on the Washburn University job site.

Roger then explained the process of evaluating the position of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries as well as Lois Grummert's job performance. A review committee is being formed, with Rachel Goossen acting as chair.

The next major discussion centered on membership at SHMC. Several members have suggested that we consider opening one position on each church board to congregational participants who are not members, a change which would allow for a more inclusive environment. This would require an amendment to the church constitution. Kerry suggested that Council representatives talk to their boards about membership this month.

Kevin shared research he is doing for a larger "neighbor appreciation" sign, similar to the one by the west entrance, to be placed nearer the street. The Council looked at the treasurer's report and discussed options for tracking donations for special projects. Roger distributed church calendars and highlighted coming events. Council will next meet on April 6 at 6 p.m.

*Janet Dixon*



### **Clown Ministers**

Reasons churches don't ask clown ministries to return:

1. They force people to smile during the 8 am service.
2. It's hard to say with dignity, "The sermon today will be given by Brother Umpa-Doody."
3. Whoopee cushions inevitably appear under pew cushions.
4. Sermons take a lot longer when they are in pantomime.
5. Many denominations do not recognize seltzer water baptism.
6. Dribble glasses used during the communion service.
7. They have to pay janitors extra to get all of the silly string off the ceiling.
8. The kids pop their balloons during closing prayer.

### Membership and Church Leaders

If there is a “discussion topic of the year,” this year’s might be church membership. In the past few weeks Southern Hills attendees have had several opportunities to exchange ideas about what church membership means, and whether it is necessary for service on church boards.

On February 26 Church Council hosted a Town Hall Meeting for the purpose of discussing two main questions: 1) Should the current policy requiring membership to serve on SHMC boards be continued? And 2) What are some barriers to becoming a member at SHMC? Participation at this meeting was good, and Council appreciates the input from many attendees.

Membership at Southern Hills involves making a commitment to love and serve Jesus Christ and to uphold the community of believers at SHMC. It does not require one to subscribe to “traditional Mennonite theology” such as pacifism or to exclude insights from other denominations or religions. Our church constitution even has an option for associate membership that allows a member to maintain a relationship with a previous congregation or faith tradition while still making a commitment to Southern Hills.

Our constitution currently states that all Church Council members and members of the Diaconate and the Boards of Education, Outreach Ministries, and Trustees must be members or associate members of Southern Hills. While that requirement implies commitment to SHMC, it can also exclude those who are interested in service but have chosen not to join the church. Often participants feel much more ownership in a congregation by serving on a board. The question then becomes: Should we amend our church constitution to allow that one position on each Board could be held by a non-member? This change might provide a more inclusive environment. Such action would require congregational approval of an amendment to the constitution.

As Roger has said, whatever we do should enhance our relationships with God and with others, because that is the point of this discussion.

*Janet Dixon*

**Pastor:**

Roger Neufeld Smith

**Associate Pastor:**

Cynthia Neufeld Smith

**Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries:**

Lois Grummert

**Administrative Assistant:**

Rebekah Wheaton

**Newsletter Editor:**

Guy E Smoker

[shmcnl@gmail.com](mailto:shmcnl@gmail.com)

**May Newsletter deadline April 24<sup>th</sup>.**

### April Birthdays

- Sharon Peters - Apr 2
- Phil Hershberger - Apr 3
- Erin Funk - Apr 6
- Brenner Burkholder - Apr 12
- Dave Gingerich - Apr 14
- Randall Schmidt - Apr 14
- Rhys Blocker - Apr 16
- Alice Kelsey - Apr 18
- Cameron Schwanke - Apr 20
- Becky Svaty - Apr 20
- Keaton Young - Apr 20
- Zaka Blocker - Apr 22
- Steve Funk - Apr 23
- Randy Schmidt - Apr 24
- Jeffrey Harrington - Apr 25
- Jené Yoder - Apr 26
- Ellen Kroeker - Apr 29

### April Anniversaries

- Jaroslav & Carolyn Tir -Apr 9
- Lisa & B.J. Young - Apr 13
- Chris & Alba Blocker - Apr 14
- Ellen Kroeker & Gil Zemansky - Apr 19
- Marla Wiens & Aaron Gragg - Apr 30



“When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

**I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.’**

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

“Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

**I was hungry and you gave me no meal,  
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,  
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,  
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’**

“Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

“He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

“Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.”

**Matthew 25:31-46 The Message**

