

Under Our Roof

February 2018

Volume 26 – Issue 2

Southern Hills Mennonite Church



**Raise the Roof in Song
A Hymn Sing and Fundraiser for
Mennonite Disaster Service**

Sunday, February 18, 4pm
(doors open at 3:30pm to view auction items)
Southern Hills Mennonite Church
511 SE 37th Street, Topeka, KS 66605

Join us in a fun way to raise funds for Mennonite Disaster Service:

- An old fashioned hymn sing led by Andrew Voth, and instrumental accompaniment from our own talented musicians!
- Learn about MDS via Carole and Wayne Stucky, Co-Directors of Region 3
- Silent Auction - bid on one of twelve homemade desserts/baked goods!
- Reception to follow the singing. A time for fellowship and to wrap up the silent auction!
- Special music by The Flannelbacks from North Newton to play during reception in the Fellowship Hall. A wonderful folk & bluegrass band!
- Start thinking about your favorite hymns!
- The more the merrier! Bring your friends! Looking forward to seeing you!

If you are unable to attend but still wish to donate to MDS, please make checks payable to MDS - Region 3, and send to the address above.

Pastors' Whereabouts

Cynthia will attend meetings of the MC USA Hymnal Committee Thursday through Sunday, February 8-12.

Roger and Cynthia will host the I-70 Mennonite pastors' group on Thursday, February 22.

Roger has agreed to help Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, with their pastoral review this spring. He will be traveling to Newton several times to meet with congregational leaders.



Senior Coffee gatherings in February will be February 1st and February 15th, 9:00 - 11:00 am.

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale
April 13-14, 2018
Hutchinson State Fairgrounds**

50th Anniversary

Remembering 50 Years -1968

Relief Sales are the result of grass roots movements across the United States to promote and raise funds for MCC. A group of Kansans organized and formed the Mid-Kansas Relief Sale. This was in 1968 and the first sale was in Hillsboro at the Marion County Fairgrounds. The space was deemed too small and crowded for the activities people wanted to provide. After two years the sale was moved to Newton, mostly outside and using tents. It rained the week before the sale and the tents and the area flooded making it less than a worthwhile experience. Because of a connection with the Kansas State Fair, the sale was moved to the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. Approximately 70 churches across Kansas are on the roster. The purpose at the beginning and still today is to support and raise funds for MCC and MCC alone. This year we celebrate 50 years of successful fundraising to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

Remembering 50 Years - 1973

April 14 was the date of the 1973 Sale held in Hutchinson at the Fairgrounds. After the devotional service and the welcome by Chairman Rudy Schmidt, the sale began with the sale of a "fluffy kitten." The second ring started at 10:00 AM and included the auctioning of a combine as well as a refrigerator. The sale of sausage was completed with the donation of 2 hogs, the purchase of 5 hams and the donation of eight additional hams. The quilt auction raised \$10,595 with the highest price paid for a quilt being \$1020. The radio and television outlets in Hutchinson supported the sale by providing interviews for the local viewing and listening market. The Friday night open house included eleven churches each proving a 15-minute program. This was the second year for the information booth. This booth provided information, and a telephone was available for use if needed. The theme for the 1973 sale was found in Matthew 25, "whatever you have done for these my brethren...you have done for me."



Pastor:
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Associate Pastor:
Cynthia Neufeld Smith
Office Secretary:
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**March Newsletter
deadline February 19th.**

February Birthdays

- 3 - Joe McClaskey
- 6 - Zoe Burkholder
- 6 - Lisa Young
- 7 - Wayne Martin
- 15 - Sara Gragg
- 15 - Gil Zemansky
- 16 - Greg Parker
- 20 - Colette Juhnke
- 22 - Caitlin Seals Schwanke
- 23 - Virgil Funk
- 24 - Sherrell Conklin
- 26 - Maggie Goble
- 26 - Emma Rosenblum
- 27 - Kathy Rich
- 27 - Ruby Unruh
- 28 - Linda Rosenblum

**February
Anniversaries**

- 6 - Caroline Seals & Clyde Schwanke
- 22 - Phyllis & Alan Slipke



2018 Annual Meeting Looks to the Future

The annual meeting of Southern Hills Mennonite Church was held on Sunday, January 28. Kerry Wedel opened the meeting by reading some scripture verses especially appropriate for thinking about the foundations of our faith as we look forward to the future.

Each of the major SHMC boards and the Church Council gave an overview of their work, a summary of their activities for the year and their hopes for the future, including budget requests. Roger and Cynthia reviewed the year and commented on the process of completing their ministry at Southern Hills.

Rachel Waltner Goossen then reviewed the work of the Vision Committee for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and gave a rationale for their request for \$6,500 in the 2018 budget for potential youth and young adult ministry needs in the coming year.

Next, in light of Roger and Cynthia's resignation/retirement, Lyle Burkholder gave a thorough overview of the pastoral transition process on behalf of the Church Council and the Pastor Congregation Relations Committee. Lyle shared information Heidi Regier Kreider (Western District Conference Minister) provided to the Council when she attended the December Council meeting. Lyle distributed a sample of that information in a handout for members to take home and read. One of the first decisions that the Church Council will be making is whether to employ an interim pastor recommended by WDC. If the Council decides to employ an interim pastor, the Council will then decide whether that interim pastor should be a "supply pastor" (providing basic pastoral services like preaching, crisis care, and administrative services) or a "transitional pastor" who, in addition to basic pastoral services, is trained to help a congregation understand and assess the church's history, identity, communication, structure, relationships and vision.

The congregation then took up a discussion of constitutional amendments proposed by the Church Council. The first set of amendments were proposed revisions to the SHMC membership covenant. A lively discussion ensued having to do with the role of the Holy Spirit in the discernment of God's call and spiritual gifts of members, possible duplication in articles of the covenant, and possible antiquated language in the covenant. The congregation decided improvements could be made to the proposed changes and tabled consideration of changes until a later time.

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Coming Events

February 18, 4:00 p.m. - Hymn Sing Fundraiser for Mennonite Disaster Service

February 24, Topeka Common Ground Seed Fair @ SHMC

February 25 and March 4, Fellowship Dinners for Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

March 4, 12:00 p.m. - SHMC JUMP Network meeting

March 19-23, Spring break

March 25, Palm Sunday

March 29, 6:30 p.m. - Maundy Thursday

April 1, Easter Sunday

April 13-14, Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

April 29, "Loss of Turtle Island" by MCC Central States leaders

April 30, Topeka JUMP's Nehemiah Action Assembly

Prayer of Saint Chrysotom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen

Constitutional changes that would allow one non-member to serve on the Education Board, Trustee and Outreach Ministries Boards were approved.

The congregation elected the following church officers, boards and delegates

CHAIRPERSON ELECT (1 yr. term, 3 yr. commitment) - Miriam Krehbiel

SECRETARY (2 yr. term) - Caroline Seals

DIACONATE (2 yr. term) - Elvera Johnson, Norma Juhnke

EDUCATION BOARD (2 yr. term)- Karen Burkholder, Natalie Moreland,
Mike Peters (for unexpired term)

TRUSTEES (2 yr. term) - Doug Penner, Phil Esau

OUTREACH MINISTRIES BOARD - Tim Voth (2 year term),
Duane Johnson (filling unexpired term)

WDC DELEGATES (1 yr. term) - Guy Smoker, Carolyn Voth, Tim Voth

The congregation went on to approve the proposed Pastors' Memo of Understanding and the proposed 2018 Budget. Newly elected leaders were commissioned for service and appreciation expressed for those ending their duties as officers and board members. Congregants thanked God and each other for the ministries of Southern Hills Mennonite Church.

Follow-up from Roger to Congregational Discussion of Membership Covenant

I appreciated all of the comments about the proposed changes to our membership covenant. I thought there were many helpful suggestions about the specific words we want to use in the covenant, as well as some thoughtful comments on the meaning behind those words. I hope we can continue the conversation about the public commitments we want to make to each other and to God, especially since I am inviting our youth to make these same public commitments as they consider baptism. I will be consulting with the Diaconate and the Church Council about the appropriate congregational forums to continue this conversation.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."
For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.
We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.
You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
Relent, O LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.
Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.
May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.
May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us yes, establish the work of our hands.

Notes from Church Council

Church Council met on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the church library. (The meeting had been postponed from Thursday, January 11, due to icy weather.) The group first heard a presentation by Lyle Burkholder, PCRC Chair, about Section IV of the draft budget, describing PCRC's recommendations for compensation for Neufeld Smiths for eight months and an interim pastor for four months. After considerable discussion, Council approved the pastors' Memo of Understanding. It will be printed in the Annual Report Book for congregational approval at the annual meeting.

After Council approved the minutes of the December meeting and accepted the consent agenda reports, Lisa Young presented the December treasurer's report, noting that December offerings brought SHMC to within \$1,300 of our giving goal for 2017. Since disbursements in 2017 were \$10,000 below the budgeted amount, SHMC realized a net gain of more than \$8,000. Lisa then presented the draft budget for 2018. Council accepted it as the proposed budget for 2018, which will appear in the Annual Report Book. Council also accepted the narrative budget. Next Council looked at a draft of part of the Annual Report Book, made some minor adjustments to it, and approved it.

Roger noted that SHMC will host a Hymn Sing for MDS on February 18 at 4 pm. This will be a fund-raiser for Region 3 of MDS. Roger mentioned other coming events, including the city-wide Martin Luther King, Jr. event on January 15. Roger moved that SHMC support the MLK event, which is sponsored by the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, and send a check for \$50, as we have done in past years. The motion was seconded and carried. The next step of the pastoral transition process will be on the agenda for the February Council meeting. Council will next meet on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

Janet Dixon

Church Chuckles



PARDON MY PLANET

BY VIC LEE

