

# SING!

College Mennonite Church

May 2016



## Grafted In

### Exploring Our Stories of Identity

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My 11x great-grandfather, Roger Williams, spent formative years in the Halls of Parliament, London, apprenticed to Edward Coke, the greatest English legal mind of his day. Williams later moved to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, from which he was expelled by its Puritan leadership in the middle of a harsh winter. Williams later founded the colony of Rhode Island and is considered the father of American Baptism. He played a prominent role in the legal development of religious liberty in North America.

As my ancestor, his story shapes my story. His story also gets grafted in to our story, the story of College Mennonite. I am not a descendant of Swiss-German Mennonites whose ancestors settled in

farming communities across North America. I bring a different heritage to our collective story, one that I hope enriches and expands it.

In this issue of *Sing!* we begin to explore as a congregation what it means to graft other stories into our body, stories that are different from those of the dominant European farmer immigrants who gave shape to the Mennonite world and its institutional form on this continent.

Inside you will find an article about the coming sabbatical for pastor and congregation around the “Grafted In” theme, an overview of upcoming worship themes, and articles that illustrate how our faith is strengthened by our shared stories and experiences.

—Phil Waite

# Sing!

## We worship together

### EVERY SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. – Songs for Gathering

9:25 a.m. – Off-site Worship

Radio: WGCS 91.1 FM: the Globe

Online: [www.collegemennonite.org](http://www.collegemennonite.org)

Greencroft Communities: Ch. 13.

9:30 a.m. – Worship service

interpretation in Spanish and, on request, American Sign Language.

11 a.m. – Fellowship and Christian education classes for all ages.

### Pastoral Team

Phil Waite, pastoral team leader  
Gwen Gustafson-Zook, outreach & worship

Marty Lehman, administration

Daniel Yoder, Christian formation – youth

Pamela Yoder, pastoral care

Talashia Keim Yoder, Christian formation  
– families with young children

### Ministry Coordinators

Claudia Granados, Hispanic ministries

Sheila S. Yoder, Deaf ministries

*College Mennonite Church is a member of **Mennonite Church USA**, an Anabaptist community of believers.*

*To learn more go to:*

[www.collegemennonite.org](http://www.collegemennonite.org)

[www.mennoniteusa.org](http://www.mennoniteusa.org)



## This Month in Worship

Worship during the month of May invites us to move from the mysterious encounter with the risen Christ on the Emmaus Road to the powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. From there, we take steps toward the lived encounter of the diverse body of Christ that emerges from the Pentecostal experience of the wild and wonder-filled

work of God through the Holy Spirit.

“...calling us all to live into ... increasing openness to the work of God in our midst.

By the end of the month of May we will be living into our summer sabbatical theme of “Grafted In,” where we explore the many and varied ways that the body of Christ changes and flourishes—and is challenged—as varied stories are incorporated into our gathered experience of life together in the church.

Through all of these stories we see and hear of the activity of the Holy Spirit, moving, inviting, challenging, and calling us all to live into deeper faith, greater grace, and increasing openness to the work of God in our midst. This season creates space for us to think creatively about hospitality while we welcome opportunities to hear each other’s stories and thoughtfully share our own—all the while celebrating the varied and numerous ways that Spirit of God is at work in our faith community and beyond.

—Gwen Gustafson-Zook

# Crossing Cultural Boundaries

## A Goshen College Service Assignment in Peru

For the spring semester of my junior year, I spent my time studying abroad in Peru through Goshen College's SST (Study-Service Trimester) program. For my service assignment, I lived in Oxapampa, northeast of the central region of Lima. Initially,



**Alina:** "My work is important because it supports my family."

art, I didn't have any specialties or sufficient experiences to benefit the community. Nor was my Spanish fluent enough to comprehend the complete history or delve in *conversaciones profundos*, deep conversations.

Even though I was a stranger in Peru, I wanted to take on a project that challenged not only the people I met but also my own identity. I decided to collect their stories, particularly regarding the question of what items had significance in their lives. Instead of just listening and transcribing their words, acts of solely receiving, I wanted to share what I knew best: to draw. And so, I drew each woman



**Noemi:** "*La mesa*—a place to share moments, a place to spend time together, a place to eat together. *Juntos*."

I helped out at a vacation Bible school run by Compassion International at a local church, where I had the opportunity to meet many youth and other attendees. Later, I helped as a kindergarten assistant at Jardín de Los Jazmines.

What could I contribute to the Peruvian community of Oxapampa? As a junior studying history and



**Yossi:** "*Dios estaba allí, siempre.*" (God was there, always.)

as I learned her story. I wanted to discover the unique experiences of Peruvian women, seeking to empower women's voices, but also to find connections between the stories.

I met strong women, each with her unique history. It is fair to say that family is a vital theme in their lives. Work is for family, food is for family, and their lives are for the family. To be *juntos*, together, in a world that is constantly changing, is extremely important for these women.

This experiment to listen, to collect, to write, and to represent Peruvian women through visual arts has been a challenge in ways I did not expect. Even with my limitations in Spanish, my project serves to support the claim that language barriers can be broken through human empathy, sentiment, as well as a variety of emotions that cross cultural boundaries.

—Dona Park



**Daniela** holds a photo of her father, who worked as a miner 10 hours away from home for two years. "*Paz y calma*" is how she feels when she is with her father.



# An Opportunity to Explore

## Sabbatical Plans for Pastor Phil Waite and Family

“I often wonder how I fit in.”

What makes a North American Mennonite? Many of us unconsciously think of a shared history of immigration, settlement in agricultural communities, a cultural-ethnic group reinforced by generations of intertwined family relationships. This, of course, is not everyone’s story, and it is not my story. I am an outsider to the tribe.

I often wonder how I fit in. What does it mean for someone who doesn’t quite belong to be in pastoral leadership? To what extent do I sit back and respect the unique cultural-ethnic values of the tribe? To what extent do I engage with a unique story and perspective? These are creative tensions to be explored rather than questions to be answered. The “Grafted In” sabbatical is an opportunity for me to explore.

Joe Springer sowed the seeds for the sabbatical theme when he, as Jonathan’s mentor, put together our family genealogy. As a history major with an interest in radical Christianity, I was intrigued to discover several prominent religious dissenters populating

the branches of my family tree. The sabbatical will allow me to explore three of those rediscovered branches. On Dad’s side, I will explore a line of Quaker abolitionists and anti-slavery activists. Trekking through Ohio and Indiana, the Fraziers figure notably in Iowa’s Underground Railroad. On my mother’s side, I will explore early 17<sup>th</sup>-century contemporaries Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams (each my 11x great-grandparents), dissenting Puritans expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Sabbatical exploring will include reading, conversations, and travel—alone and with my family. I will begin sabbatical travel in May, spending time in the Pacific Northwest in rest and renewal. Thanks to the special renewal grant, our whole family will be able to travel to London, Cambridge, and Lincolnshire in England, all places of importance to Hutchinson and/or Williams. We will then visit Amsterdam to, among other things, explore links between dissenting Puritans and Dutch Anabaptists. We will then travel up the Rhine



River to Switzerland, exploring sites and landscapes important to Beth's family, as well as some that figure prominently in Mennonite history into which I am being grafted. Following our time in Europe, Beth and I will sail from Southampton, England, to New York on the *Queen Mary 2*, while my father-in-law, Marion Bontrager, accompanies Jonathan and Lukas back home to Goshen.

I will continue travel in New England (with Jonathan), exploring Hutchinson and Williams' sites, as well as exploring some Waite history. (Arriving from England in Watertown, Mass., in the 1630s, Waite ancestors later settled Waitsfield, Vermont. Great-great-grandfather Oren S. Waite (1850-1936) hopscotched cross-country from there to Portland, Ore.) After Jonathan returns to Goshen, I will travel down the East Coast. Spending time in eastern Pennsylvania and North Carolina will connect me with some of my Quaker heritage.

Other travel includes time exploring my Quaker abolitionist family in Iowa and the battle site in Missouri where my 3x great-grandfather, John Braden, was mortally wounded during the Civil War.

I am grateful to CMC for providing this wonderful sabbatical opportunity. —Phil Waite



#### Photos

*Upper left:* Lt. John Braden, Phil's 3x great-grandfather, was mortally wounded fighting with the 14th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Pilot Knob (Missouri). When John died, his son Erwin was three years old.

*Center left:* Benajah Frazier and Mahala Russell, also Phil's 3x great-grandparents, were Quakers in Iowa. Benajah came from a family of Quaker abolitionists involved in Underground Railroad activity. They are buried in the anti-slave portion of the Quaker cemetery in Salem, Iowa. Their daughter Lina married Erwin Braden. Eventually Erwin and Lina settled in Oregon. These pictures were kept in a trunk belonging to Phil's great-grandmother, Julia Braden Waite, in Toledo, Ore. She died in 1980.

*Upper right:* In Phil's words: "Is Europe ready for these people?"

*Above:* Grossmünster Church—one stop on the Europe itinerary. © Roland Fischer, Zürich (Switzerland) CC-BY-SA-3.0

## Meanwhile ...

### Back in the Congregation

We can all join in reflecting about times and places where we experience being "grafted in." Does a different place, a different time, a different understanding of faith continue to shape you or your family? What story would you be willing to tell or to write to help others understand more about your rootstock or new branches?

In June and July, we will have series of messages from "pastors in residence"—people who can share their own faith experiences in communities of Mennonite Christians very different from ours.

Madeline Maldonado, from Fort Myers, Florida (in June), and Alix Lozano, from Bogota, Colombia (in July), will live

and preach in our midst. We look forward to extending hospitality to

**What might this teach us about the experiences of others?**

our guests. Our hospitality will include sacrificing some of our routines in order to listen and learn from these two women. During Alix's visit, we will experience firsthand the patience needed to listen first in a language many of us do not understand before hearing an interpretation in English. What might this teach us about the experiences of others in our midst for whom English is not their first language?

We'll also be able, if we want, to read some of the books on Phil's personal sabbatical reading list. Staff from Goshen College's Center for International & Intercultural Education will work with staff and other leadership groups to look at both the vision and the realities of our congregation's interest in reaching across cultural boundaries.

After Phil returns from sabbatical on Sept. 15, he and we will be able to share our experiences with each other. —Joe Springer

# Welcoming a New Member

## Sarah Yoder

Sarah Yoder transferred her membership from Goshen City Church of the Brethren to College Mennonite on April 17.

Church was an important part of Sarah's childhood and teenage years. Her family attended Goshen City Church of the Brethren on a regular basis, where she was baptized in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Attending Bethany Christian Schools, where her mother was a teacher, helped to shape and strengthen her faith. Sarah experienced Bethany as a place where students could explore faith and where they were exposed to many faith issues without a lot of pressure to believe or think a specific way. Bethany allowed students to decide where and how they wanted to engage. Sarah appreciates this approach and credits her years at Bethany as very formative.

Sarah met her husband Seth at Bethany and together they graduated in 2001. They both went on to Goshen College and were married in 2003, in the middle of their junior year of college. During her Goshen College years Sarah was very involved in Morning Song, a Sunday morning collaboration between college students, faculty, and CMC members. Helping to plan and lead these worship services was a meaningful experience for her and also worked to strengthen her faith.

After college, Sarah worked in admissions at Bethany and coached tennis at both Bethany and Goshen College. Later she returned to college to get her teaching license. Today she works as a special education teacher at Goshen Middle School in a Life Skills class, working



with students with moderate to severe disabilities.

For a few years, Sarah and Seth took a break from church. They visited CMC off and on, but something kept bringing them back. When their son, Lewis, was born, they began attending more regularly. Today they are very active in the Growing Roots Sunday school class, which is a big part of why they are at CMC. The class explores issues of faith, especially as it relates to families.

Sarah and Seth have three children: Lewis, age 4; Elliot, age 3; and Ava, age 1. Seth is on the Church Board and Sarah regularly leads children's time during worship. They are a busy family. Welcome to College Mennonite, Sarah!

—Marty Lehman



*Left:* Sarah, with help from Lewis, leads an energetic children's time during Sunday morning worship.

# On the Journey of Faith Formation

## Investors Join the MYF

"I love CMC and feel it's my responsibility and a privilege as a member here to support and encourage our youth as they develop their faith. Providing a safe place for them to ask hard questions, along with providing the opportunity for them to explore new experiences, is one way to encourage faith development." This is why Myra Oswald has been and continues to be an MYF Investor.

Each summer the MYF either goes on a service trip or goes to the Mennonite Youth Convention, and we invite the congregation to join us on these adventures. Fundraising for trips has always been part of youth ministry. But what is more key to long-term faith formation are relationships built between youth and adults. This is why we started MYF Investors five years ago. It provides a place for youth and adults to connect around the activities and themes of the MYF summer trip, share stories from their own experiences, and talk about where they see God at work in their daily lives.

This summer, June 17-25, the MYF will go on a Learning/Serving Trip to the United States-Mexico border. We will spend four days in the border towns of Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Our hosts Jack and Linda Knox will take us to the local agencies that work with Frontera de Cristo to learn about the many issues surrounding immigration. Then we will go to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico, for four days to work with iEight Ministries (Isaiah 6:8) in the barrios to build a home for a family living there.

There is always room for more Investors to join and become part of this summer's U.S.-Mexico Border Learning/Serving Trip. Contact Daniel Yoder for more information. —Daniel Yoder

## Investor Meetings

It's not too late. We would love to have you join us at our next meeting. We want to hear the story of how God is at work in your life.

- June 12, 6:00 p.m.
- June 26, 10:45 a.m.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we gather around the tables and learn from each other. On the 26th, we will share stories from our experiences at the border.

## Prayer Requests

- Traveling safety
- The family we will work with to build a house
- Openness to God's leading through the stories of immigrants
- The trip affects how we live at home



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## A Vital Ministry – Sunday School at CMC



Cathy Knopp was a member of CMC who died unexpectedly in 2008. She was a schoolteacher at Central Noble High School, teaching English. She lived in Albion, Ind., but made the drive to Goshen on Sundays for Sunday school with the Horizons class. She would listen to the CMC worship service on the radio while she drove to church.



Adult Sunday school groups take many forms at CMC. Some have curriculum committees who plan the topic for each Sunday. Others are more laid back and informal. For still others, the

Sunday school class is the primary and only connection to College Mennonite. Some operate more like a small group than a Sunday school class. For Cathy, her Sunday school was a small group experience. It was a significant part of her faith journey.

Cathy Knopp was typical of many who attend Sunday school at CMC. She was looking for a way to connect, a community where she could build relationships, and opportunities to learn and grow in her faith. Her Sunday school group provided this for her.

Adult Sunday school groups are a vital ministry and part of faith formation in our congregation.

—Marty Lehman

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## Catch the Spirit at Summer Bible School – June 6-10

Do you want to catch a spirit of enthusiasm, joy, and wonder? Come participate in Bible school June 6–10 at CMC. This week is an opportunity for young and not-so-young to learn from each other. Last year one adult family leader expressed her joy at the innocent, but serious, questions her young mentees had after the corporate worship drama of the resurrection: “How did this really happen?” “Where did Jesus go?” The leader often discovered her prepared lesson was put aside to answer questions. These discussions refreshed her own faith and led to her own rediscovery of the Bible stories.

There are many opportunities to participate in this week for all ages! Perhaps you will share your gifts as a family group leader, or pass out snacks, or provide a bag

of oranges. Whatever your talents, if you participate, you’re apt to “Catch the Spirit!” —Sheila S. Yoder

Catch the Spirit!



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## Sign-Up for the New CMC Photo Directory



Have you signed up yet for your photo session for the new church photo directory? If not, go to the church website and click on the blue “Portrait Sign-Up” icon. Follow the directions

for selecting a date and time for your photo session. We hope that everyone will participate. We are a large church family and the photo directory helps us match names and faces. It is also a gift of hospitality that we offer to new participants as they join our community of faith.

*Sing!* is a monthly publication of College Mennonite Church. Send inquiries to [communications@collegemennonite.org](mailto:communications@collegemennonite.org).

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