

SING!

College Mennonite Church

April 2016



Make a Joyful Noise!

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“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!” “Sing to the Lord a new song!” “I will sing unto the Lord!” Singing is primal and integral both to the experience of faith and to human culture more broadly. We sing for joy, we sing our grief, we sing our praise and thanksgiving, we sing our anger and rage, we sing our hopes, and we sing our fears. Singing is also a metaphor for our Christian walk. In the words of the great hymn, **“Holy God, we praise thy name,” “through the church the song goes on.”** Our hearts sing. Creation sings. Creation is sung into existence. At College Mennonite Church, singing is core to who we are. We love to sing, and people know us for our singing.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Sing!*, the new monthly magazine of College Mennonite Church. This raises two questions: Why a monthly magazine? And why call it *Sing!*?

A monthly magazine provides us with an opportunity to introduce ourselves to our wider community. Our former “newsletter” was intended for information sharing within our church community. We as pastors and staff think others might be interested in what goes on at College Mennonite Church. We also want a communication piece that is thematically focused, more widely read, and as such can help us build community—that is, provide for us a touchstone for inspiration and congregational life.

As for *Sing!*, it’s what we do at CMC. Singing, and music broadly, provides the structure for our walk of faith. It’s how we understand our relationship with God. We sing our liturgy. And we sing as we go. That is, we sing as we walk, witnessing to God, sharing our faith.

—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

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

Lee Dengler, music

Susan Dengler, music & worship

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

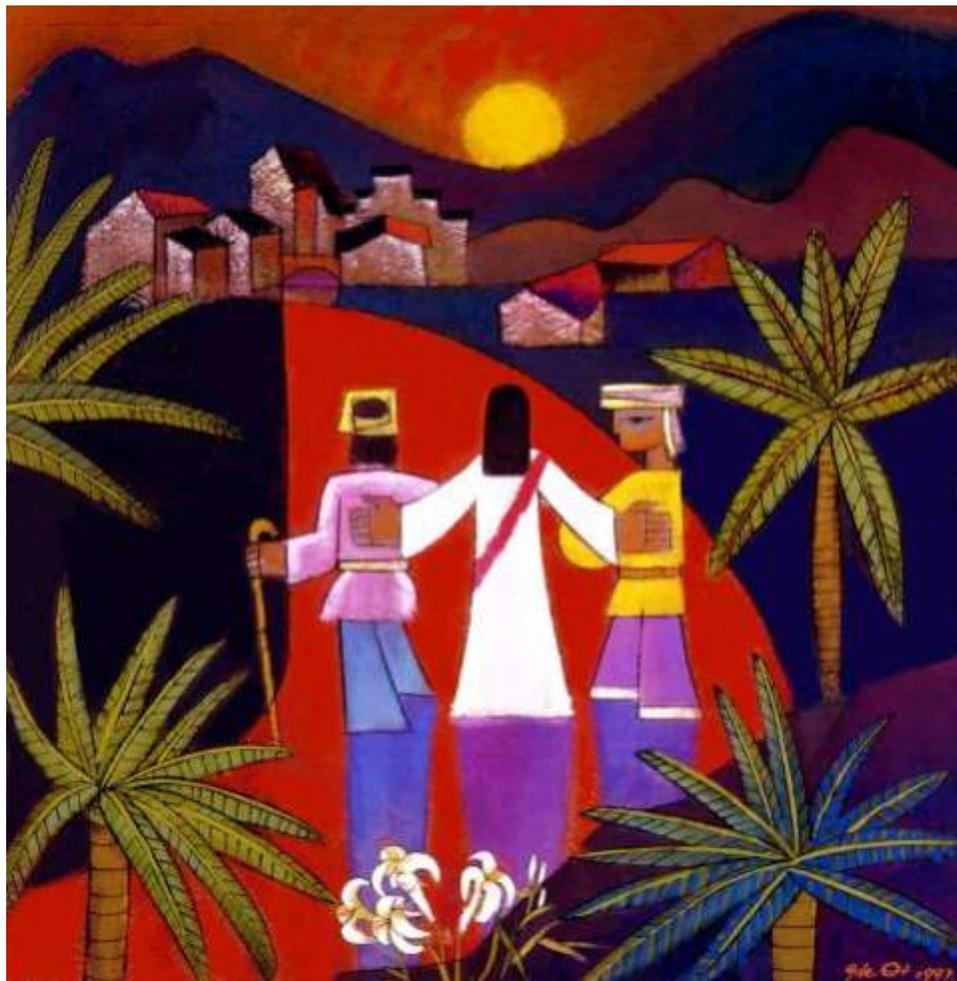
Sheila S. Yoder, Deaf ministries

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

To learn more go to:

www.collegemennonite.org

www.mennoniteusa.org



This Month in Worship

“Were not our hearts burning within us” Luke 24:32

In Luke’s gospel, on the afternoon of that first Easter, Jesus appeared to two of his followers on their walk from Jerusalem to the village Emmaus. They did not know it was Jesus, at least at first. In fact, Jesus appeared to them as someone not exactly up to speed with current events; that is, he seemed not to know about the resurrection. In the course of their walk, Jesus opened the scriptures to them and gives witness to the meaning of the Bible stories so that the two believers’ hearts were burning.

In Acts 10, Luke (the author of Acts as well as the gospel that bears his name) reports that the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word—that is, the testimony that Peter had been giving. When we witness to God’s mighty acts, we unleash the power of the Holy Spirit. This coming month in Eastertide we give testimony to the burning of our own hearts as we give witness of God’s mighty acts to one another. —Phil Waite

The Road to Emmaus; He Qi © All rights reserved; www.heqiart.com

“Bringing Sight, Bringing Light”



Twenty-year-old Jorge’s first word was “enorme” (enormous), as he looked around the room with his new pair of glasses—the first he’d worn in his life. The smile on his face spoke volumes! Abandoned at an early age, with poor vision, he’d been unable to attend school. He wandered the streets in search of scrap metal to earn a living. I often wonder how that thick pair of glasses changed Jorge’s life.

Upon retirement seven years ago, I responded to a request to join Medical Ministry International as an interpreter in the operating room for an ophthalmologist who performed three types of surgeries in Nicaragua.

Every year there’s a case that touches me deeply, that makes the experience worth the money, time, and effort. This year’s January clinic was no exception. A young mother brought her cross-eyed, six-year-old daughter to the clinic. In the mother’s words: “This is a miracle I’ve been waiting a long time for. God bless you! The gift you’ve given is much more than health. It’s a dream come

true!”

Many of this year’s 250 surgery patients came trusting God would provide healing for their cataract, strabismus, pterygium, and laser surgeries. Indeed, God was at work before we arrived! Many a patient declares, “Gracias a Dios!” (Thanks to God!). Or if a team member says, “Gloria a Dios!” (Glory to God!), the patient will respond with, “Amen!”

The team of 62 Canadian and U.S. volunteers, along with many local church volunteers, treated 5,400 patients in ten days. And many were turned away with the expectation we’d be back in 2017.

After much coaxing, Carlos agreed to surgery for removal of a trauma-induced cataract—the result of an assault. After he arrived at the hospital, I did all I could to calm him, but fear of the needle got the best of him. He jumped off the table in an attempt to escape. Luckily a staff person and I were able to subdue him until he was given a local anesthetic. Once on the operating table, he relaxed when he realized surgery

had begun painlessly. After surgery, I assured him his eye looked beautiful. However I had to tell Carlos there was no guarantee he’d be able to see. That would be known only upon removal of the patch the next day. The ophthalmologist, Carlos, and I were nervous as the patch was removed. After he responded correctly to the finger count test, I lost it. Carlos also shed a few tears. I have often wondered how this surgery changed Carlos’s life.

I continue to be inspired and energized by the faith-affirming responses of patients the past seven years I’ve volunteered with MMI, and I often wish I’d be able to see what difference prescription glasses, reading glasses, and surgeries have made in the lives of patients through the efforts of MMI volunteers. MMI’s motto is “Bringing sight, bringing light!” The words and tune of “Open my eyes that I may see” keep playing over and over in my mind.

—Allen Peachey



Photos: a little girl post-surgery; above: Allen with a doctor and a deaf patient.



Ministries of Music and More

Celebrating the Pastoral Ministry of Lee and Susan Dengler

When Susan and Lee Dengler retire from the pastoral team on May 1, they will have served College Mennonite Church nearly 20 years. Having arrived here in September 1996, they initially shared a half-time position as ministers of music and the arts. This position morphed into a half-time position for Susan in music and worship, while Lee continued working quarter time in music.

In recent years Susan has been planning and coordinating all worship services, including special services during Christmas and Holy Week. She also preached occasionally; coordinated the children's music program; and directed Praise Makers, the choir for grades three to five. Lee's primary responsibility has been leading the adult choir.

Although it wasn't part of her job description when she first came to CMC, Susan says she loved the opportunity to preach. Researching and writing sermons came naturally to her. Delivering sermons also comes naturally to her, since much of her work has involved performance. Susan has enjoyed working with children's choirs, where she's gained a positive reputation for using her teaching skills with children and coordinating a team of adult leaders, currently including Rosemary Rupp, Geof Landis, Judy Kennel, and Deb Kauffman. She was overjoyed to pull off *The Inn Crowd* last Christmas, a musical that she and Lee wrote and produced using children from CMC and other congregations.

Lee's job hasn't changed as much over the years, although for a short period in his early years at CMC he was director of finance. Having had prior experience as a comptroller, he was the first one to computerize the congregation's accounting system. Having the opportunity to direct the CMC choir has been a blessing for him. He remembers fondly some of the bigger productions that the choir performed. To celebrate the 100th



anniversary of the congregation in 2003, Lee and Susan co-wrote a 50-minute oratorio. The choir also performed *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, with orchestra, and *Martyrs' Mirror*, composed by Alice Parker.

When asked what changes they've noticed at CMC during their nearly 20 years of ministry, they said congregational singing has changed the most. Congregational singing was mostly four-part a cappella. Even when the new hymnal supplements first came out, accompaniment was mostly just piano. Now other instruments are used as well. They also said that when they first came they didn't have computers in their office. They also had to attend all elders meetings. Since the congregational reorganization in 2010, they've had fewer committee meetings to attend.

Phil Waite, pastoral team leader, says he's appreciated working with Susan and Lee. They have been easy and fun to work with, and they have a good sense of humor. What he especially appreciates about Susan is her teachable spirit and willingness to work in areas that are outside her comfort zone, especially when she senses the Spirit is leading the congregation in a new way. She was willing to provide guidance to New Song in the early stages, even though the style of music wasn't her area of expertise.

Phil said he appreciates the way he's seen Lee develop as a pastor. Leading Prayers of the People during worship isn't an easy task, but Lee does it with real pastoral sensitivity. He has also grown in leading the choir with pastoral skill. Each choir practice has included a time for choir members to share joys and concerns, followed by prayer. Choir members can testify to the reality that Wednesday evening choir practices are a spiritual high point of the week. It takes a special skill for a musically trained person like Lee to work with mostly untrained singers, but Lee does it adeptly, getting the most out of the choir through patience and persistence.

Lee and Susan will be away from the congregation six months when their retirement begins. They plan to spend the first month in Sedona, Ariz., a place that is special to them. They will continue to compose music, and Lee will also continue to do freelance work in music engraving and editing. They look forward to spending more time with their two adult children and five grandchildren, three of whom live in the Goshen area and the other two in New York. They plan to return to CMC, and Lee will resume directing the choir in November.

—Richard A. Kauffman



Susan shared her gift for preaching.



Susan directed the children in *The Inn Crowd*, a Christmas pageant written by Lee and Susan and performed at CMC in 2015.



Lee and Susan with their children and grandchildren

Providing Mutual Christian Care

Stephen Ministry at CMC

Later this year, John Smith will “retire” from his role as a Stephen Leader. Thankfully, he will continue to provide care both as a Stephen Minister and Pastoral Care Visitor. John has been an integral part of CMC’s Stephen Ministry from its outset. For a long while he was the only male Stephen Leader. Though outnumbered, he was fearless and joyful in doing his part. From setting agenda for our meetings, to making a fabulous brunch for our group, to faithfully making coffee and tea for meetings, to sharing his unique laugh and stories of humility in caregiving, to his good explanations of confidentiality, to leading our prayer times, John has brought a wealth of experience, wisdom, wit, and joy to his role as Stephen Leader. We have appreciated his organization, his skill as a teacher, his supportive guidance as a supervision leader, his bright smile, and his ever-expanding compassion as a caregiver. In anticipation of John stepping down from his place on the Stephen Ministry Team, I asked him to reflect on his experience. (*John’s responses are in italics.*)

How has it felt to be a part of the team that got Stephen Ministry established at CMC?

Following training [in Orlando], the Stephen Leader Team met weekly from January to September 2012 to get our program on a sound footing, to organize the first training of CMC Stephen Ministers in fall 2012, and to support the first Stephen Ministers in January 2013. The Stephen Leader Team has worked diligently as a unified team from the beginning on; I am very grateful for such strong team solidarity and effective collaboration.

What has been a challenge you have faced as a Stephen Leader and Stephen Minister?

It has been important to me to view Stephen Ministry as one of many ways lay pastoral care happens at CMC. I am convinced that in our large congregation we need a multi-pronged approach to provide mutual Christian care.

What has been the meaningful part of serving as a Stephen Leader?

Building a strong Christian community is a key part of our almost 500-year Anabaptist movement. I find it mean-

ingful to collaborate within our congregation to strengthen our ties and sense of belonging so that we are a solid unit to reach out to the wider world in the daunting, ongoing calling to build for understanding, justice, and peace.

What are your hopes for CMC Stephen Ministry going forward?

Stephen Ministry is one of multiple ways for us to care for each other within our congregation. High levels of Christian care within our congregation build a firm foundation for CMC to be a part of God’s kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven.

In many ways, the Stephen Leader Team has served as a sort of small group, as we have shared personally and prayed for each other often. The Stephen Leader Team knows and appreciates that John is a world traveler and an avid naturalist with a passion for creation care—another way he lives out his faith. John is often taking or leading wildflower hikes in local parks, swamplands, woodlands, and more. In fact, once or twice John, always dependable, didn’t come to a scheduled meeting. When we called him, we discovered he had lost track of time out on a nature hike! We thank John for his faithful service.

—Pamela Yoder



John Smith, second from the left, leads a nature walk with CMCers.



Building Community Wednesday Nights at CMC

Since last fall we have gathered on Wednesday nights for times of fellowship over the dinner table, followed by a variety of activities for all ages.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making these evenings a time to learn and grow together, building our community of young and old, college students and retirees, infants, teenagers, and adults. Wednesday night meals and special activities will resume in September.



Men's Fellowship

Men's fellowship meets weekly on Wednesdays for informal visiting around the lunch table and a variety of interesting presentations. Attendees, both men and women, gather at 11:30 a.m. for a light meal, followed by a program from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Individuals are invited to attend the full series or individual programs. The cost for each luncheon and program is \$7. Registration forms are available in the literature racks for the spring series, which includes:

- March 30** "ISIS and Radical Islam Through the Eyes of Those Facing It" – Ron Klaus
- April 6** "Working for Peace and Justice in Indiana" – Regina Shands Stoltzfus
- April 13** "The Life and Faith of Earl Schwartzentruber" – Genny Schwartzentruber
- April 20** "Anabaptist Witness in Cuba" – John A. Lapp
- April 27** "Life/Faith Story" – Chuck Waite
- May 4** Men's Fellowship Review and Planning Session

This is the final series until men's fellowship programs resume in September. If you would like more information about Men's Fellowship, contact Amos Burkholder at 574-534-1972 or afburk39@gmail.com.

Stewardship Notes: Support for CMC Ministries

Recently, Elizabeth Yoder of our congregation died. Before her death, her family surrounded her in her hospital room, where daily CMC pastors visited Elizabeth and her family. After she died, CMC staff went to work, tending to all the details related to the memorial service. Phil met with the family to plan the service. Sandra prepared the order of service, along with taking care of the visitation details. Jessica prepared the funeral meal, along with coordinating a team of volunteers to help with the meal.

While none of Elizabeth's family members attend CMC, they are grateful for the way they were cared for during this significant life event. End-of-life ministry is an important ministry at CMC, made possible by your contributions to the general fund.

At the end of February, total giving to the general fund is at \$131,600. Giving to the Sunday school fund is at \$2,280. Contributions to special fund are \$58,928. Giving to the building fund is \$160 and to the birthday offerings is \$2,607.

Thank you for your support of CMC ministries.

—Marty Lehman and Marie Clements



CMC memorial garden

Mark Your Calendar

See the weekly Sunday morning bulletin or www.collegemennonite.org for a detailed list of church activities and meetings. Highlights include:

- April 17** Farewell for Lee and Susan Dengler 10:45 a.m.
Congregational Meeting 6 p.m.
- April 24** Goshen College Graduation (no Sunday school)
- June 6-10** Summer Bible School – registration begins in April

Sing! is a monthly publication of College Mennonite Church. Send inquiries to communications@collegemennonite.org.

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