

SING!

College Mennonite Church

September 2016



Becoming Members

I am grateful that in the church I found a family. —Maria Murillo

Each of you sharpens me and inspires me to keep going even when I think I'm getting weary. —Felipe Merino

I have decided to follow Jesus; I want everyone to know that I belong to him. —Patricia Baylon

I discovered the great heart that everybody in the church has, how deeply you care and help your neighbor. —Adamaluy Alonzo

In this issue:

- MCC service in Egypt
- New member faith statements and interviews
- "How Can I Give"
- Announcements



At College Mennonite Church anyone professing faith in God, making a commitment to follow Christ, and declaring willingness to participate in the life of the congregation is eligible for membership. People become members through baptism, transfer of membership from another congregation, or confession of faith. Church membership includes participating in congregational decision-making, holding office in the congregation, and being actively involved in activities. It is exciting to welcome new members into our church family.

It is a privilege and a joy to listen to the stories and to share in the faith journeys of new members. In this issue of *Sing!*, you will find faith statements and biographical information for people who have recently joined our church community. Together—as the always-changing body of Christ—we will grow in faith.

—Marty Lehman

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
Gwen Gustafson-Zook, outreach & worship

Marty Lehman, administration
Daniel Yoder, Christian formation – youth
Pamela Yoder, pastoral care
Talashia Keim Yoder, family ministry

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

Exploring What It Means to “Love Mercy”

Our fall worship texts will focus on mercy. Given that much of our world seems to be in turmoil, our election process feels crazy, guns are out of control, and fear appears to dominate public discourse, it seems reasonable that we take a cue from the Pope and give some attention to *mercy*—our need for it, our need to give it freely, the centrality of it in Jesus’ life and teachings. So this fall we will focus on mercy.

When Pope Frances called for this year (Dec. 8, 2015–Nov. 20, 2016) to be the Jubilee Year of Mercy, many people from a wide

variety of faith traditions felt a sense of appreciation for the Pope’s sensitivity and insight into the struggles of many in our world. And Mennonites were no exception. Many of us Mennonites, who have long promoted service and concern for the poor, were among those who respected the Pope’s desire to give concerted

What does mercy mean to us?

effort toward promoting mercy. But it soon became evident that we Mennonites don’t spend a lot of time talking about mercy.

What does mercy mean to us? How do we experience mercy? What does it mean for us to offer mercy to others? What do we mean when we sing “Kyrie eleison” (Lord, have mercy)? My experience living and working among Mennonites is that we are quick to quote Micah 6:8: “what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” But we don’t spend a lot of time exploring what it means to “love mercy.” So this fall we will spend some time with mercy. Hopefully our Anabaptist foray into the realm of mercy will both enable us to engage in meaningful conversation within the ecumenical community and empower us to graciously receive God’s mercy and generously offer mercy to others. May it be so.

—Gwen Gustafson-Zook

Out of the Nutshell, into Egypt

Reflections on Service with Mennonite Central Committee

Sitting down to write this piece, I realized something. I had hoped to sit with pen poised over paper (so to speak) for a brief moment, and then launch into a self-propelling narrative with a deep and poignant resolution. That's what I wanted, because that's what I like to read and it's what I like to write. But I realized that I didn't have it in me to write something quite like that.

I spent my last year working in Cairo, Egypt. I was there with Mennonite Central Committee's SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program. I worked with the Anglican diocese—mainly office work related to international development, ecumenical work, and interfaith dialogue.

I saw a lot, did a lot, and learned a lot. I was fascinated by the enormous history of the region—from the building of pyramids to the Arab Spring, from church schisms to 1300 years of coexistence with Islam.

I loved the language, and while I never became fluent in Arabic, I also could never get enough of it. I saw church politics and doctrines unfolding in high circles of the Anglican Communion. I met all manner of Christian and Islamic leaders and saw the hard and good work they were doing in their communities.

In learning about churches and religions so far removed from and yet related to my own faith, I came back to my roots with a passion. I read and learned what I could about my own beliefs even as I experienced those of others.

I ate some of the best chicken I've ever had.

And I made friends. I got to know good people well. I tried to understand the country I was in by seeing



it through their eyes and hearing their stories. Maybe what matters is that I got to know people well enough to miss them.

But I'm not sure what matters. And that's my point.

To tie a ribbon on my experiences with Anglican archbishops and meetings of global significance is to leave out the hospitality of my unexpected breakfast of beans and bread with two Sudanese refugees working in the guesthouse downstairs from my flat.

To talk of the glories of ancient Egypt, of pyramids and temples and tombs and spectacular architectural, societal, and linguistic achievements, is to gloss over the struggling state of the tourist industry today. Of empty shop stalls and people desperately trying to sell their wares to the few tourists who happen by.

To neatly wrap up the roles of governments and religions and political movements is to pass over inside jokes and long talks in street cafés and strange musical instru-

ments purchased.

In summary, my time in Egypt was ... my time in Egypt. It was life. No tagline, no witty conclusion; it was many, many stories and is a lot of unraveling to be done for years to come.

I can say for certain a few things, like my sincerest thanks to College Mennonite Church for your prayers and support. And I can say that I felt God's hand guiding me through a fascinating and wonderful year.

But at the moment I just have to sit back and savor memories without trying to reduce them to significance. A star is easy enough to describe, but the night sky is a sight for eyes alone.

—Reuben Ng

Photo: Sunset between two large pigeon-roosting structures at the Coptic Orthodox retreat center of Anafora. Two other SALTers did their service there.



Sharing in the Journey

New CMC Members Talk About Their Faith

This spring and summer at CMC we have joyfully welcomed several people into membership. Here (and continued on p. 6), you can learn more about our new church family members.



Maria Lopez and Luis Bautista

Maria Lopez is from the state of Sinaloa in Mexico. She has two sons and a daughter. Maria came to the U.S. in 1996. She thought that this country was truly beautiful and enjoyed living here. Leaving her children and family in Mexico was a very painful process. After residing in this country for a while, Maria was able to bring her daughter

and youngest son to join her. Maria first heard of Mennonites in 2000, when she was invited to attend El Buen Pastor Mennonite Church. In this congregation, Maria first accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Soon after that, Maria

“I owe everything to Jesus.”

returned to Mexico to take care of her mother, who was ill. Maria continued to attend church in Mexico. She joined her mother, siblings, and relatives in attending the evangelical Protestant church. Upon returning to the U.S. she began to attend CMC thanks to Pastor Claudia Granados, who invited her to the Embajadores Sunday school class. Maria is joyful to have Jesus in her heart and life: “Jesus Christ is my desire and captain. Christ is who governs me, who has control of my life. I owe everything to Jesus.”

Luis Bautista is from Mexico City. Luis came to the U.S. in 1988 after an earthquake shook the capital of his country in 1985. Luis traveled and worked in different places. He also dealt with alcohol and drug abuse. After living in the U.S. for some time, Luis met Maria Lopez, and soon after they decided to move in together. From the

start, Maria would teach Luis about God. Luis began to attend church with Maria, and then they decided to get married. They wanted to follow God’s commandments. “God and his word have been my guide to fix my life from all the mistakes I made before I met him. I desire to know him more each day and to live in obedience. I am also thankful for Claudia and the Sunday school class where she has given us advice when we most needed it. I am happy to have the opportunity to be in this faith community.”

—Angeliky Santos



Felipe Merino and Adamaluy Alonzo

Felipe Merino was born in California, and his family is from Mexico. Felipe has five brothers and a sister. His sister and her family also attend CMC. Felipe moved to Indiana to attend the Notre Dame School of Law. He is currently serving the community of Goshen through his law firm as an immigration attorney.

In 1999 Felipe was working at a community center in South Bend, where he met Rene, one of Adamaluy’s brothers, who was just a middle-schooler determined to become a doctor. Felipe became a friend and a mentor to Rene as he applied for college. Once Rene finished college, he began to work for Felipe, and Rene introduced Adamaluy to Felipe. A month after meeting Felipe in

California, Adamaluy decided to move to Indiana. Within a week of arriving in Indiana, Felipe proposed to her and they got married the same week, in September 2009.

Adamaluy Alonzo was born in Guerrero, Mexico, the youngest of 12 siblings. Her extended family was numerous, and together they worked as migrant farmers, constantly moving to different states in Mexico. When her father began to age and was no longer able to work, 18-year-old Adamaluy decided, along with ten of her siblings, to move the U.S. Through her hard work and effort, she was able to support her parents in Mexico.

As for Felipe's faith journey, he was raised in the Missionary Church, where he was baptized at the age of 13. Later, he attended a Baptist church and an Assemblies of God church before moving on to a Methodist church. Adamaluy grew up learning about God and faith traditions through her family, but her family did not emphasize the need to attend church on a regular basis. In California, she began to attend a Catholic church and study the Bible. Once married and living in Indiana, Adamaluy was baptized in the Methodist Granger Community Church.

Finding CMC was a true blessing for the Merino family. They desired to attend a church and visited several in the Goshen and Elkhart area, but they did not feel as welcomed, connected, and part of a family as they did at CMC. They feel CMC is the right church for them for several reasons. "When I stepped inside CMC and saw that many of the members were older people, I melted. I told Felipe, 'This is heaven.' I wanted to hug and get to know all of them. I love older people; they remind me of my parents, and I enjoy spending time with them," said Adamaluy. "I was delighted to see that CMC was dedicated to working with the deaf community. I have a cousin who is deaf, and when I was younger I used to attend a sign language class." Adamaluy would like to serve at CMC with the elderly and with the deaf ministry.

Felipe has been inspired by the service and community focus of the church. "It was important to find a church where members are willing to commit to change the world and transform conflict to peace through service. I believe we need leaders in our community who are willing to work for our children, as they are the future of our community."

—Angeliky Santos

"God does not always fix your problems, but if you pray, God gives you strength to face any struggle."

Maria del Socorro Ruiz
Maria del Carmen Bustamante Murillo
Cesar Bustamante Murillo



Maria del Socorro Ruiz is the mother of Maria del Carmen and Cesar Bustamante Murillo. The three were baptized and became CMC members on July 31.

The Murillo Bustamante family came to the United States from Guanajuato, Mexico. After three years in Phoenix, Ariz., due to the rise of police profiling and discriminatory immigration laws, the family decided to move somewhere they could feel safe. Having support from relatives in Warsaw, Ind., the family moved to Goshen in 2010. The Murillo Bustamante family first learned about CMC through Bible studies led by Pastor Claudia Granados every Wednesday at noon at their workplace. Becoming members of CMC is a step they are taking together as a family—a delightful choice that each of them took, despite their diverse faith journeys.

Maria del Carmen is married to Francisco Garcia Perez, and they have two young daughters, Alondra and Lexi. Maria used to be a devout Catholic; attending the Sunday mass at 7 a.m. was part of her routine. After attending the Bible studies at her workplace, she decided to switch her membership to be part of CMC.

Maria said there have been changes in her life since she began to attend CMC, and these have made her and her family very happy. First, her husband decided to attend church and join the Sunday school class. She said, "I am so thankful with God. Now we are walking together

in faith. When one of us has a question about the Bible and religion, we often sit together, and hear each other's opinion, and compare our Bibles." Cesar agreed, "Attending CMC has helped unite and make our family bond stronger."

"At CMC, people treat you as if they have known you for a long time," said Maria del Carmen. "I enjoy attending the Bible studies and Sunday school. I feel free to

(continued on p. 6)

ask questions; I am not embarrassed to ask a question, nor afraid that someone is going to criticize me.”

Maria del Socorro shared, “When I was younger, I didn’t need to ask God for anything, just thank him. It wasn’t until I got married that I truly felt a need for God. Then I began to face lots of problems, and that is when I began to seek God. God does not always fix your problems, but if you pray, God gives you strength to face any struggle. Upon attending the Bible study led by Pastor Claudia, I felt joy in my heart and certainty that God was by my side.”

Cesar never attended a church regularly. About a year ago, he began to face great difficulties. As he battled against depression, people around him suggested that he read the scriptures. When he began to read the Bible, the scriptures were his only source of peace and strength amidst of problems. He said, “When I first came to CMC, I felt a lot of peace. I used to attend church but I didn’t feel close to God. Through hymns and prayers at CMC, I felt closer to God. Even though I don’t understand all the words, through hearing and joining the worship one can easily feel the presence of God, just like in the Sunday school class where we sing, pray, and learn about God.”

Being baptized and becoming a member of CMC was a very significant step for Cesar in his faith journey. He said, “I always wondered why I was baptized when I was a child. I thought that being baptized as an adult has a deeper meaning, as the person understands what they are doing and know its meaning. By reading the scriptures about Jesus and baptism, the strong desire to be baptized and become a follower of God grew inside of me.”

Maria del Socorro, Maria del Carmen, and Cesar are eager to begin serving at CMC. Maria del Socorro desires to develop relationships with members of the church and serve by caring for the elderly in the church. Maria del Carmen wants to continue learning English and serve as an interpreter. Cesar wants to serve in the ministries and projects of CMC. He enjoys helping and spending time with others.

—Angeliky Santos



Kent Beck and Karen Lehman

We individually became members at College Mennonite Church in the early and mid-1990s. We were married in



1996 and raised our children in Goshen. When our last son graduated from high school, we moved to Maryland for Karen to take a CEO position at a Quaker retirement community. There we worshiped with the Hyattsville Mennonite congregation. A

job move to Pennsylvania brought our church membership to Plains Mennonite Church. In early 2015 we had the opportunity to purchase and renovate the former Front Porch Inn on Fifth Street in Goshen. Kent primarily worked on that project and is the main innkeeper at the now open inn on South Fifth Street. Along with the inn, Kent is a school nurse at Chandler Elementary School. Karen continues her CEO role at the Community at Rockhill in Sellersville, Pa., with plans to move back to Goshen in the near future.

Oldest son Caleb Coblenz and daughter-in-law Carmen live in Charleston, S.C., and have two children, Miles and Maren. Son Michael Beck recently married Joana Amorim (from Portugal) and they live in Berea, Ky. Son Joseph Beck lives and works in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and daughter Sarah Beck lives and works in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Returning to Goshen and to College Mennonite Church is truly coming home for us.

—Kent Beck and Karen Lehman

Patricia Baylon

I was first baptized when I was 15 years old so that I could celebrate my quinceañera in the Catholic church. Ten years ago I was baptized again at a Pentecostal church. Despite the fact that I was no longer a teenager at that time, I did not understand the significance of baptism. But now, I want to follow Christ. Because I have knowledge of God’s love and sacrifice, I have decided to take this step to serve Jesus. I want to be part of his church. The church that he is coming to take. A church where together we praise his name and give honor and glory to him with everything we do.

—Patricia Baylon,

translated by Angeliky Santos

An Act of Worship

How Do I Give to College Mennonite Church?

How do I make a contribution to CMC?

How do I give when I don't have a checkbook?

I never have cash, so how do I give on Sunday mornings?

Do I have to use one of those envelopes everyone seems to be using?

If these questions are familiar to you, we have some answers:

Offering envelopes are available for everyone who wishes to use the envelope system. You can put your checks in the envelopes and write your giving designations on the front. You can also use them for cash. But they are not required for making a donation to CMC. See Scott Litwiller in the church office if you want to receive offering envelopes.

We offer many ways to give to College Mennonite:

- ◆ **Personal Check or Cash:** You can give by check and/or cash. Your check or cash can be placed in the basket during the offering time at a Sunday morning worship service. If you aren't in church on a Sunday morning, you are welcome to bring your check or cash to the church office during office hours.
- ◆ **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Your weekly or monthly contribution can be debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account. To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer, go to the CMC home page, follow the Contribute Here link, then select Online Giving. Click on Create Profile, following the instructions to set up an account. You will need your checking or savings account routing and account numbers. Select where you want to donate and how often. It's that easy. Contact the church office with any questions, or if you just need help updating your selections.
- ◆ **Credit/Debit Card Giving:** You can give with a credit or debit card. Recurring donations are set up through the Contribute Here link on the CMC website in the same way you set up an Electronic Funds Transfer.
- ◆ **Square Reader Giving:** During the offering time on Sunday mornings you can make a credit or debit card donation with the Square Reader. Go



to the church office and one of the ushers will help you make your donation.

College Mennonite Church believes that giving is an act of worship. It is part of our shared worship experience. So how can you participate in the offering while giving electronically? Here are a few suggestions:

1. There are cards in the pews which you can use to place in the offering plate.
2. You can continue to use your offering envelope and write "I give electronically" on the envelope before placing in the offering basket.
3. Prepare your own offering card, which indicates you're making electronic donations, and place it in the offering plate.

—Marty Lehman and Scott Litwiller



Deaf Fellowship to Host Coffeehouse

You are invited! Our Deaf Christian Fellowship and the Goshen College American Sign Language club are presenting a unique coffeehouse:

6:30-8 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 16
in the CMC basement youth room**

Chad Entinger, director of Deaf Missions in Iowa, will share his story of becoming deaf at the age of 16 months due to spinal meningitis. Enjoy a little coffee and informal interaction at an event where you may be a language minority. Interpreters will be available to assist with communication.
—Sheila S. Yoder

Re-Membering Through Our Story



As God's people, we are part of God's story. The Bible starts the story, tells us about God and how we are to live as God's people so that we can keep God's story of love, hope, and grace alive today. No matter how many times we have read the Bible or heard the stories, there are always new things to learn. This year, Genesis, MYF, and Embajadores will have the same Sunday school goal: to go through the entire Bible so that we can see ourselves as part of God's story today.

Each month will focus on a different theme that helps us understand God's story and our part in it. The themes are: origin, calling, covenant people, triumphs and failures, resets, the example, hope, new people, and discernment.

Once a month all the classes will meet together. Parents of the youth are also invited to be part of this time.

On these "Qabats Sundays" (Hebrew for "gather") we will interact with the theme for the month and give family groups time to brainstorm how the theme impacts their daily lives together. On other Sundays, classes will meet separately to explore Bible stories that relate to that month's theme.

This will be a year of remembering and re-membering. We will remember and retell our common stories of God's faithfulness throughout history. And we will re-member and put together many diverse parts of our congregation (youth, adults, Anglos, Hispanics, Deaf, etc.) so that we can gather as families of faith to discover our part in God's story today.
—Daniel Yoder

photo: *During an August 2014 worship service, junior high youth (Genesis) and parents tell the story of the Bible in 100 words.*

Mark Your Calendar

■ Wednesday evenings this fall

6 p.m. Evening meal in the Fellowship Hall

6:45 p.m. Activities for all ages (choir practice resumes in November)

■ **Sept. 23-24** Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds

■ **Oct. 2** World Communion Sunday

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

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