

SOJOURNS

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The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

December 3, 2017

SENIOR SAINTS—December Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy birthday to our senior saints who are celebrating birthdays/anniversaries in December!

Gordon Amstutz (78), Monday, December 4

Connie Neuenschwander, (69), Tuesday,

Delo Gerber (65), Thursday, December 7—

—Welcome to the Senior Saints, Delo!!

Nancy Miller (69), Thursday, December 14

Ada Amstutz (88), Saturday, December 16

Til Neuenschwander (89), Sunday, December 24

Paul Wenger (79) Tuesday, December 26



Try to guess who these persons are. Their names will be listed in the next issue of *Sojourns* on Sunday, December 17.

Who am I? _____

1. Vocation:

1st job: Wood Decor Finishing Department in 1981

Vocation: Lehman's (direct sales and stocker for shipping department)

2. Favorites:

Food: Pizza and hamburgers

Book: Bible

Book of the Bible: Genesis

Song or Hymn: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Place to visit: Hawaii and Pearl Harbor

Vacation Destination: Caribbean Cruise

Sports team: OSU Buckeyes Football

TV show: The Big Bang Theory

Other: Staycations

3. Hobbies: Reading, playing piano, mowing and working outside, walking "Smoke", our dog

4. Pet Peeve: When people don't respond when talked to

5. Least favorite chore: Cleaning the bathroom

6. Nobody knows: I still get nervous when playing piano sometimes.

Answer from November 19 issue:
Jeremy Patterson



Who am I? _____

1. Vocation:

1st job: Program Director at Fort Wayne Children's Home

Vocation: Retired—volunteer at MCC Connections

2. Favorites:

Food: Ice cream and date pudding

Book: Cutting for Stone

Book of the Bible: Proverbs

Song or Hymn: *Living Prayer*

Place to visit: Mountains of Virginia

Vacation Destination: Alaska

Sports team: Cleveland Cavs

TV show: NBC World News Tonight

3. Hobbies: Biking; following the Indians and Cavs

4. Pet Peeve: People who talk and talk and keep repeating themselves

5. Least favorite chore: Cleaning filthy donations at MCC Connections

6. Nobody knows: I How much I do until I don't do it



Becoming New by Phil Raber

Heaven on earth, delivered by birth
Advent 2017



*A promise kept
A gift unwrapped*

*Abba all right
Now a Son so true*

*Truly rewarding
The Word recording*

*Spirit's coming
The Holy becoming*

*Like a child for me
Miraculous example
of all things new*

ADVENT 2017 – Yes! Let it Be!

This year's advent theme focuses on Mary's prayer in Luke 1:38, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Mary had just heard an amazing plan—and from an angel, no less! The plan was for her to carry, and give birth to, the Son of God! Mary responded, "Let it be." Mary is often characterized as a meek and passive, obedient servant. A close look at the language Luke uses suggests a more active engagement with God's plan, a mood that expresses a wish, or a prayer. Mary is giving voice to an active commitment, and is expressing a strong desire to be part of God's plan. An even less technical way of expressing this might be the colloquial "Bring it on!"

So this Advent season we are invited, along with Mary, to make this our prayer to God: "Yes! Let it be!" (Or, if you prefer, "Bring it on, God!") The theme statement each Sunday will express a variant of this sense of prayerful desire to participate in God's activity. May your worship during Advent, as facilitated through the Scriptures, music, visual arts, dramas, readings, children's stories, and sermons, draw you into a deeper commitment to be co-participants in God's work in our world. Let it be!

Celebrate Advent At Home, *Yes! Let it Be!*, an Advent worship guide, is designed for parents to use at home with their children between December 3 and January 6. The worship guide includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together. Copies of the guide are available at the Welcome Center.

Online Advent Devotions: Goshen College offers an online spiritual resource to help believers make time and space in their hearts and minds to welcome Advent.

Beginning last Monday, November 27, and culminating on Christmas Day, Goshen College students, faculty and staff provide weekday reflections based on lectionary scripture passages. Writers will reflect on the Advent theme: *Yes! Let it Be!* taken from Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada worship resources. Subscribe to receive the daily e-mail via the www.goshen.edu website or read them online.

GO FUND ME ACCOUNT

On September 22, Randy Mast, son-in-law of Ada Amstutz and married to her daughter, Audrey, was in a serious motorcycle accident. He is recuperating, but will be unable to work before February, 2018, if then.

The Living Water Church, the church they attend, has set up a "Go Fund Me" account and also accounts at Farmer's National Bank in Mt. Eaton and Dalton. Donations should be made to "The Mast Family." Your consideration of sharing with them through making deposits to these accounts is welcomed. Thank you for sharing as you feel led. —Ada Amstutz

IN OUR LIBRARY—FOR AGES 8-12

Listen Up! Venture Club children, ages 8-12, new in our church library: *Adventure in Odyssey* audio cassettes from Focus on the Family. Listen to *Thank you, God*, a Thanksgiving story; other titles are *Karen*; *Back to Bethlehem, Parts I, II & III*; *The Imagination Station, Parts I & II*; *Connie, Parts I & II*; *Pilgrim's Progress Revisited, Parts I & II*; *This Is Chad Pearson*; *It Is Well*; *The Underground Railroad, Parts I, II & III*; *East Winds, and Raining*.

NEWS & NOTES

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: www.ccscomets.org; 330/857-7311

- CCS Elementary School will present a Christmas Concert, *A Lamb's Tale*, on Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center.
- CCS High School choirs and instrumental groups will present their Christmas program on Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center. CCS alumni are invited to join the orchestra for the annual playing of the Sleigh Ride.
- Alumni Night, December 22: Varsity girls basketball game at 6:00 p.m. and Varsity boys basketball game at 7:30 p.m. vs. Lucas High School. All alumni get in free and will be eligible for prize drawings.

KIDRON MENNONITE CHURCH invites you to an extended Family Christmas Dinner which will be held on Christmas Day, December 25, at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. The gathering will start at 11:30 a.m. with the carry-in meal at 12:00 p.m. Meat, drink, and dinner rolls will be provided. Fellowship and games will last until 2:00 p.m. Anyone in the community who has no other plans is welcome to attend.

MESSIAH: The Orrville Community Chorus will present its 74th annual performance of MESSIAH by George Frederic Handel today, December 3, 7:00 p.m., at Central Christian School in Kidron. Admission is \$5. Students through eighth grade will be admitted free.

OAK GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH, Smithville, will be performing selections from **Handel's Messiah** accompanied by chamber musicians and led by conductor Brian Wiebe, on Sunday, December 17, at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and a free-will offering will be taken. If you would like to join the choir, please plan to attend rehearsals on Friday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 16, at 3:30 p.m.

FUNDRAISER MEAL FOR AUSTIN ZUERCHER, presently a pastoral intern at Salem-Wooster (and nephew of Steve & Lisa Zuercher), will be held next Sunday December 10, at Crown Hill from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Austin will be serving for two years with Eastern Mennonite Missions in Costa Rica. Join him for the meal and then following that at 6:30 will be a time of worship where he will share about what he will be doing in Costa Rica. Everyone is welcome.

The next issue of *Sojourns* will be printed for Sunday, December 17, 2017. Please submit items to the church for this issue by Thursday, December 14, 2017, 9:00 a.m.