

CALENDAR

We offer resources for...

April 1: Palm Sunday
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/160

April 5: Maundy Thursday
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/161

April 6: Good Friday
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/162

April 8: Easter
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/163

May 27: Pentecost
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/164

Resource Update

- Highlights faith and church ministry resources that Mennonite Church Canada makes available by loan, sale or electronic download.

- Is distributed 10 times a year by Mennonite Church Canada in its congregational *Equipping* package.

- For a free personal email subscription to the **Resource Update** contact resources@mennonitechurch.ca

- Submissions of a special worship service, litany or celebration are always welcome. Share with us and other congregations!

- Links in the electronic publication are LIVE - just click to enter our website.

Editor: Arlyn Friesen Epp

Designer: Katharina Nuss

Resource advocates available to help churches

Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre just got bigger and more personal.

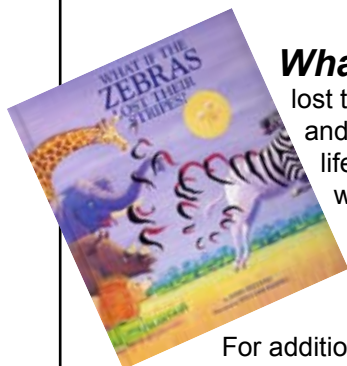
Four volunteers – Lisa Carr-Pries (Eastern Canada), Jeff Thiessen (Man.), Marion Bueckert (Sask.), Tracy Brown Ewert (Alta.) – are in place and eager to help congregations identify and locate the faith formation and spiritual nurture resources congregations need. Only one more position, in B.C., needs to be filled.



From Left to Right: Jeff Thiessen (Man.), Lisa Carr-Pries (Eastern Canada), Tracy Brown Ewert (Alta.), and Marion Bueckert (Sask.) are serving as Resource Advocates for Mennonite Church Canada. MC Canada is seeking to fill a vacant position in B.C.

Resource advocates will serve as an “extension” of the Resource Centre, a personal contact you can make in your Area Church. They have been trained to help give our MC Canada and Mennonite Publishing Network materials a greater profile in our congregations. And they will want to hear from you about any congregational resourcing need that you may have. Expect to meet them at your Area Church delegate session or hear from them in the coming months. Please also feel free to contact them directly. Contact information can be found at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/153.

Childrens' Corner Resources for the library, home, Sunday School or Sunday morning storyteller.



What if the Zebras Lost Their Stripes? If the zebras lost their stripes and became different from one another, some white and some black, would they turn and fight each other and stop living life as loving friends? Addresses the issues of racism for children with a combination of sensitivity and humour. The book allows all readers, young and old alike, to imagine the possibilities of a world without prejudice. – by John Reitano; illustrated by William Haines, Paulist Press, 1998.

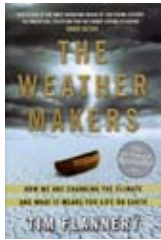
For additional children's books, check www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/168

Route to...

- Librarian
- Pastor(s)
- Worship Planners
- Education Coordinator
- Church Secretary



An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It, by Al Gore, Rodale, 2006. Our climate crisis may at times appear to be happening slowly, but in fact it is happening very quickly - and has become a true planetary emergency. Through science, photos, and accessible statistics and stories, Gore offers his passionate and informative crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it.



The Weather Makers: How We are Changing the Climate and What it Means for Life on Earth, by Tim Flannery, Harper Collins, 2005. We are now the weather makers. Human-caused pollution - in the form of ozone-destroying chemicals and greenhouse gases - has altered not only global weather patterns but increased the potential for extreme weather events. An ambitious and urgently needed book, eloquently written by a world-renowned scientist on the greatest crisis facing our century.



2007 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Be Opened, Canadian Council of Churches. This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity brings two invitations to Christian churches: to pray and strive together for Christian unity, and to join together in responding to human suffering.

These two responsibilities are deeply intertwined. Because both relate to healing the body of Christ, the principal scripture text chosen is a story of healing. The origins for the theme are found in the experience of the Christian communities in the South African region of Umlazi, near Durban, who have undergone great suffering.



A Broken Flute: The Native Experience in Books for Children, edited by Doris Seale & Beverly Slapin, Altamira Press, 2005. Seale and Slapin evaluate hundreds of books for children and teenagers published from the early 1900's through 2004. This large annotated bibliography is

intended to bring attention to some of the gifted writers and illustrators of the past.



Reading the Bible With the Damned, Bob Ekblad, Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. Exploring the challenges that both the church and the unchurched have faced regarding giving and receiving the word of God, Ekblad encourages us all to learn to read the Bible together as a whole.

In this compelling book, he reflects on how Christians have often found it difficult to proclaim God's good news to every realm of society, while those who have needed it most have frequently deemed themselves unworthy due to social circumstances or sinfulness. He offers concrete advice on how to bridge this gap through a variety of insights – born from his biblical studies he's hosted among prison inmates.



The Manitoba First Nations Education: Cross Lake Treaty 5: Interview with Elder Gideon McKay, (VHS) Strongfront. TV, 2005. The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre presents the following production to assist you to better understand Treaty No. 5 from a historical and legal point of view. More importantly,

the video incorporates the oral understanding of the Treaty No. 5 from an elder's point of view, which is the spirit and intent of the Treaties. Also available in this series is: Split Lake Treaty 5, Interview with Elder Elijah Mayhem and Sagkeeng Treaty 1, Interview with Elder Victor Courchene.



Resource Centre on the Road

Bring the Resource Centre to your next gathering or attend one of the following events:

Our Resource Advocates (see pg. 1) now make it possible to have displays at each of our upcoming Area Church delegate sessions. Displays will include items to borrow from the Resource Centre and titles to purchase from Mennonite Publishing Network.

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| Feb 23-24 | MCBC – Arlyn |
| | MC Sask – Marion Bueckert |
| | MCM – Jeff Thiessen |
| Mar 23 | MCA – Tracy Brown Ewert |
| Apr 27-28 | MCEC – Arlyn and Lisa Carr-Pries |

From our Press

New from Mennonite Publishing Network

Available from the Resource Centre for a free preview loan.
To purchase, order online
(www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre/home)
or call MPN at 1-800-631-6535.



A Precarious Peace: Yoderian Explorations on Theology, Knowledge, and Identity, by Chris K. Huebner, Herald Press, 2006.

This book poses a challenge to mainstream accounts of Christian pacifism. In place of an approach which seeks effectively to implement and distribute a peace whose content is known in advance, Huebner develops a radical understanding of peace that puts into question many of our most deeply held convictions. Key conversation partners include Rowan Williams, John Milbank, Karl Barth, two Mennonite grandmothers, Canadian cinematographers, and most of all, John Howard Yoder.



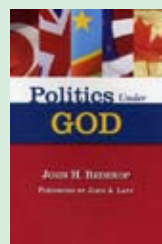
Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be, by John D. Roth, Herald Press, 2006.

Straightforward, accessible narrative invigorates this contemporary introduction to the Mennonite story. Whether readers are new to the Mennonite community or just yearning for a fresh telling of Anabaptist origins, this will serve as a compact digest of the church's history for generations to come.



Children's Illustrated Bible, by Eve B. MacMaster, Herald Press, 2006. The Bible is rich in stories that teach, fascinate and encourage young people. This book retells these stories with clear, simple language and colourful artwork that take

the child from reading to discovery.



Politics Under God, by John H. Redekop, Herald Press, 2007. Drawing on decades of writing about public policy issues in Canada and the United States, he affirms politics as an appropriate arena of Christian service and government as an institution established by and accountable to God.



Vacation Bible School 2007: Be Bold! God is With You This year's Mennonite VBS material challenges children to put their trust in the steadfast love of God. Free sample materials and ordering information at www.mph.org/vbs.



Consider Jesus: Daily Reflections on the Book of Hebrews, by Donald R. Jacobs, Herald Press, 2006.

Jacobs holds up the book of Hebrews like a mirror and shares reflections on how he lets Jesus speak in and through his life. Don's meditations, one for each day of the year, glimpse the way to the peace, power, hope, and healing of Jesus as he is revealed in this challenging and enigmatic New Testament book.

Three new Bible reading record brochures help children and youth learn to read their Bibles regularly. Each full-colour foldout leaflet guides readers through age-appropriate readings and tips and includes a chart to track their progress. Purchase for your Sunday School or home:



My Bible Reading Chart – geared to early readers with 100 favourite verses selected for young children and fun tips to get them started reading the Bible.



Dig Into the Bible – for middle to older elementary children, challenges older readers to read and learn even more about the Bible.



Read the Book – draws teens into the variety and depth of Bible literature, offering a plan for reading through the whole Bible.



2006 IMPaCT: International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together, DVD, Mennonite Church Canada, 2006.

The global church now has a personal face for some congregations in Manitoba – it is the face of Agustin, or Alvin, or Deusilene, or Beatrice, or Carlos. These are the Mennonite pastors from Spain, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay and Chile (respectively) who took the Manitoban congregations' hearts and homes by storm when they came to spend two weeks together as they participated in the IMPaCT program in June, 2006.

Borrow or request a free copy from the Resource Centre.

Note: the 2007 IMPaCT experience is planned for Mennonite Church Alberta in the spring.



In on the Action?

January's Top Rentals

Fun Bible Skits 1 by David Morrow, Faith & Life Resources, 2005. Ready-to-go biblical scripts and activities for kids and congregations.

Is Any Among You Suffering?: Anointing, (VHS), 1987. Examples from the Church of the Brethren who practice both private and public anointing.

Circles of Grace: Worship and Prayer in the Everyday, by Keri Wehlander, 1998. Collection of complete worship services for use by small groups, families and individuals.

Nooma: Dust, (DVD) 2004. Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us? A provocative discussion-starter – part of the Nooma DVD series.

Is it Insensitive to Share Your Faith?: Hard Questions about Christian Mission in a Plural World, by James R. Krabill, 2005. Is it polite - is it even imperial - for Christians to invite others to faith? Krabill, a confessing Christian, writes vulnerably about how he answers.

Friends and Enemies: A book of short prayers & some ways to write your own, by Ruth Burgess, 2004. A collection of short prayers about friends, enemies, relationships and the particular moments and places of our daily lives.

Courage for Hallelujahs: Alternate Worship Resources for Lent and Easter, by Keri Wehlander, 1997. This creative and refreshing volume provides life-affirming resources for Lent and Easter.

Wrestling With Angels: An Intimate Look at the Tough Questions of Life, (VHS series), 1993. This six-part video curriculum examines the varied experiences of ordinary people as they challenge issues of faith from a variety of real-life tough questions.

CATALOGUE TOOL TIPS

I'm leading a devotional on Jesus' Beatitudes. How can I search for information?

- Type "beatitudes" into the keyword search field. This generates a list of worship materials, curriculum resources, a sermon, and children's story.
- Or, under "Advanced Search" type [Matthew 5:1-12] under "Scripture Reference." This yields similar and additional material.

For other frequently asked questions, check www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/169

Website Window

Anabaptist Online Resources

New MC Canada resources online:

- **Pastor and Congregation Evaluation Packet**
Designed to provide an orientation to the delicate art of congregational leadership evaluation. It provides several evaluation tools designed for specific kinds of congregational situations. www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/165
- **2007 Speakers' Bureau**
A list of Mennonite Church Canada staff and International Mission Workers who are available to preach, lead workshops, Sunday School presentations, and offer other training opportunities. www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/166
- **2007 Generosity Report**
Celebrates the blessings that each of us bring to the ministry of Mennonite Church Canada. Capture a glimpse of what is happening within and beyond our national church. www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/167

New links worth noting:

- **O Canada: Armed and Ready**
Canadians do not usually think about Canada as being a militarized country. We are used to the jokes about our outdated military equipment and our lack of firepower. This website encourages us to take a closer look. What does it mean that Canada is giving increasing priority to its military? www.mcc.org/canadaarmed
- **Youth Ministry Newsletter**
An Anabaptist youth ministry resource for pastors, sponsors and lay leaders. This free e-mail newsletter features Bible studies, discussion guides and activities for use with youth and young adults. www.mennonitemission.net/work/service/relate/
- **Racial Justice Resource Kit**
The Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network (CEARN) offers a 2007 Racial Justice Resource Kit as a free download for congregations. **From Chains to Freedom: Journeying Towards Reconciliation** includes worship materials, biblical reflection, educational materials on the slave trade, and the practice of slavery in Canada, children's resources and much more. <http://www.ccc-cce.ca/english/justice/racism.htm>
- **Copyright Issues**
Needing help discerning the complexities of music, video, worship copyright issues? Check out this guide for congregations produced by the United Church of Canada. Also see Mennonite Publishing Network's FAQ sheet at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/170. <http://www.united-church.ca/copyright/congregations.shtm>