



Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S CORNER

We
got
home
from

vacation Tuesday evening just in time to attend a potluck meal with the victims of the embassy bombing in Kenya. Cheryl Crichley had organized this event, so I asked Cheryl to write about this experience for the pastor's corner. After all, I was on vacation.

Have a good summer. Maybe we will see some of you at the annual conference.

Moses Mart

"We gather joy, pass it around..." This is the beginning of the chorus of the song I wrote for our church several years

ago. On the 20th of June, several members of our congregation gathered to share a little joy and a lot of good food with ten people who have suffered much, one group from Kenya, and one from here in Oklahoma City. Jan Jenner from Eastern Mennonite University was responsible for bringing the group from Kenya, who were victims of the U.S. Embassy bombing in Nairobi in 1998, to meet with victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Susan Urbach was the local coordinator for the one-week visit to our city. A group from here will reciprocate with a trip to Kenya in July. As it turned out, our worship group felt that we were more on the receiving

end of the joy than the giving. Some people from our church who could not attend either sent food or donated money to purchase what was needed. Those who were fortunate enough to meet with our new brothers and sisters in Christ experienced an evening of fellowship and music that we will not soon forget. We were told that the members of the Kenyan groups liked to sing, and that Jan wanted to participate in a rousing Mennonite rendition of good old "Number 606." That was all the cue we needed, and we were blessed by several songs in Swahili by members of the group, and had a great time joining in when we could, with both the words and the

motions. Our benediction was the song, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

At one point, Melissa Workentine started singing a song in Swahili that she learned as a young child. The Kenyan group immediately recognized it and joined in. That was one of the highlights of the evening for me. I was also touched to see one of the Kenyan gentlemen reading to another, who had been blinded in the bombing, the church's welcome, and a poem I had written after the bombing here. Later in the evening, he asked to have it read again. It seems that sometimes when we try to give, we wind up also receiving joy, pressed down and running over.

Cheryl Crichley

Martha Shoemaker A Brief Biography By Thea Klassen

Martha was born on May 6, 1926 at Hess, Ok, at the home of her parents James and Lilly Morrison. They lived in

a two-room shack. She was the third of twelve children. One brother died at two hours of age when Martha was 2. When her parents had six children, a man from a nearby church came and invited the family to come to church. Her

mother said they didn't have any clothes to wear. They were invited to church to receive some donated clothes. While there, a lady stated that her parents were drunks and bootleggers. Two women then took the clothes off the children

and said they would throw them into the trash because they weren't fit to give to another child. Martha asked her mother if she could go and get the clothes out of the trash but her mother said that that would be stealing. The people of



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**Joy Mennonite Church
 meets at 504 NE 16th
 Street. Service begins at
 10 am on Sunday.**

At the last business meeting I agreed to serve as our delegate to Nashville 2001, although a proxy may be used for the actual meeting. There is much work to be done in the meantime, however, I received a draft of the Membership Guidelines for the Formation of the Mennonite Church USA, and a questionnaire pertaining to this draft. By June 25th I will make copies of the guidelines, the questionnaire, and the 1995 Confession of Faith, (which is referenced) available for anyone who would like to review them. My hope is that many of you will fill out a copy of the questionnaire and return it to me. One of the thorny issues continues to revolve around membership of homosexuals, same-sex covenant ceremonies, and so on. I will leave these documents at the church, or you may contact me to arrange to receive them. The questionnaires need to be back to me by July 16th, so that I may review them and send in our response by the deadline, however, the dialog in these issues will be ongoing. I am always willing to listen to your views, ideas, and concerns, as I attempt to represent our group.

**News about
 Nashville 2001**

have a certified life guard keeping watch. *Melissa Warkentine*
 We look forward to hearing Peter Brueckner give a message this month while Moses and Sadie Mast are in Tulsa attending South Central Western District Conference of Mennonite churches, July 7-9.
 Joy Mennonite annual campout is July 15-16. Come join the fun and fellowship. Details are being hammered out as to location. For more info call Sadie Mast 771-4743, Frank Bliss (405)865-2570, or Debbie O'Neal 631-1654.
 Cheryl Crichtley has handed out questionnaires for Mennonite Church USA. These should be returned no later than July 16. Please contact Cheryl at 672-4734 if you need a copy or would like more info.
 We rejoice with Christ Jennings and his fiancée, Teresa Kilpatrick, on July 22. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both, as you begin married life together.

NEWS

Her first husband, Norman had belonged to the Baptist Church, and Martha joined and raised her children in the Baptist Church. When Martha saw Sadie Mast, JMC's minister's wife, go through her neighborhood (close to JMC) one day she was very impressed by her courage, as that neighborhood was quite infested with crime and drugs. She talked to Sadie, liked what she stood for, started coming to Joy Mennonite and then joined the church in 1997. Her husband Del joined the church in 1999.
 Martha has many interesting stories to tell about her life. Martha drove out there with two children. She was four months pregnant. On the way she had an accident. She lost the baby, had to have the car repaired, and then went on to California.
 Martha had five children all together, all still alive. One son lost his hearing at 3 from polio. He is working with priority videos, has a family and is doing well.
 Norman had a heart attack when Martha was 28, and she nursed him for ten years prior to his death in 1964.
 One year after Norman's death, Martha met Del Shoemaker while she was working for Yeager Wholesale, and they got married. He was a trucker but took retirement in 1982 after an accident on the job that disabled him. Later he became very ill and Martha nursed him until his death on February 1, 2000.

never hurt to swimmer is already ten, it can Ranch. Although the youngest as well as at Hopefield disabled persons this summer her skills at a camp for YMCA. Jessica will be using training at the Shawnee opportunity to take this finally had the been a dream for her and she training courses. This has long Mennonite, took life guard Warkentine, a youth at Joy Last month, Jessica