

January 2016 | Volume Fifteen—Issue One

Greater Things

Jesus said to his followers: "... if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)

"Love God, Love Others, Serve the World"

By Glen Rhodes, Minister of Administration & Community Life

In November the Ministry Team at AMC attended a two-day Everence seminar that was held at the First Mennonite Church of Normal. This seminar focused on the theme of creating congregational cultures of generosity. The Ministry Team found this seminar and our time together as a team to be very helpful on many levels. While we feel that this congregation is and always has been very generous and giving, we also sensed the Lord leading us to make this theme of generosity, service, and stewardship a focus for this new year ahead.

God has blessed us in so many ways and the Bible encourages us to bless others out of what the Lord has given to us. In the month of January we hope to immerse ourselves in a journey of taking God's call to be faithful stewards seriously. Our prayer is that through looking into God's Word, telling our stories, and sharing our experiences, we can foster a whole new level of intentional and spontaneous generosity. Our hope is that this will continue on throughout 2016 and beyond.

Our love for God, our love for others, and the call upon our lives to serve the world in the name of Jesus Christ will guide this journey. It will begin on Sunday, January 3rd when I will bring a message from Romans 12:1-2 and Matthew 6:19-24 entitled "The Joy of Generosity." On that Sunday we will

begin "30 Days of Generosity" which will be our focus each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. during a combined Christian Education time in the fellowship hall. Those four weeks of January CE will be focused on these themes: "It's about God" (January 10), "It's about Purpose" (January 17), "It's about Provision" (January 24), and "It's about Me!" (January 31).

Everence Stewardship Education Director, Beryl Jantzi says, "We live in a culture that worships the material, where it becomes impossible to see the connection between what one thinks about God and what one does in daily life. 30 Days of Generosity brings that

all together so God is indeed honored by the daily stewardship choices you make."

As we move past January we will have a new banner in the foyer to remind us of this theme of love and service. May it encourage us, inspire us, and move us to be the people that God has called us to be. Believers who are intentional about sharing the good news of Jesus through word, deed, and sacrifice. Yes, God has blessed us in many ways, but his blessings are to be shared in ways that impact the world for His Kingdom. May 2016 be the year of jubilee, the year that our generosity becomes contagious.

"God has blessed us in many ways..."

THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC
Ministry Team

Serving like the Samaritan

From Jeff Marner, Minister of Outreach



'But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.'

We're all familiar with the story of the 'Good Samaritan'. His example was used by Jesus to teach a lawyer how to be a good neighbor. While the life of this Samaritan (we'll call him Sam) may have been made up by Jesus, certainly women and men lived and live like Sam.

Sam found a way to incorporate this act of service into his regular day to day life. He took simple practical steps that we can all appreciate. He likely wasn't a physician but he was a man with a donkey and that was enough to take care of the basics.

Sam gave what he was able and asked for assistance where he wasn't. He was busy enough with life and travel that apparently he didn't have the time to care for the wounded man for a lengthy time. This allowed others in the story to help carry the burden. After all, the innkeeper was in the business of staying put and that was well suited to place in the story.

Sometimes we are the ones who cross paths with those in need and we can be the ones who give the initial assistance. Sometimes a friend lets us know of a need and we join in the story to see it through to the end. God has blessed us in many ways and more importantly God has lavished his church with talents and gifts and abilities to bring real help and healing. Let's share the burdens of our community in community with each other.

30 Days of Generosity

starts January 3rd with
the message:

"The Joy of Generosity"

Combined Christian Education in January

"It's about God" January 10th
"It's about Purpose" January 17th
"It's about Provision" January 24th
"It's about Me!" January 31st

LOVE
GOD
LOVE
OTHERS
SERVE THE
WORLD

FIRST FRUIT GIVING

Giving God Our Best

Stewardship & Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
11/29/15	130	\$3,889
12/6/15	145	\$4,909
12/13/15	144	\$4,273
12/20/15	163	\$6,173



Christian Unity Week Includes Pulpit Exchange

The Arthur Ministerial Association is encouraging local churches to pray for Christian unity during Christian Unity Week around the world. As a part of this observance the pastors will participate in a pulpit exchange on Sunday, January 24. Each pastor will be bringing a message on the same scripture passage in another church. Glen Rhodes will bring the message that morning at Zion United Church of Christ and John Stewart (Arthur First Baptist Church) will be bringing the message here at AMC. More information will be provided on how you can make this week of prayer meaningful and helpful for our community.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Justin Taylor	Jan. 1	Madison Snyder	Jan. 18
Evonda Yoder	Jan. 2	Alta Yoder	Jan. 19
Kathy Yoder	Jan. 5	Rhonda Rhodes	Jan. 19
Esther Yoder	Jan. 7	Luke Miller	Jan. 20
Brendon Lane	Jan. 15	Rob Weber	Jan. 21
Jackie Crabtree	Jan. 15	Meredith Schrock	Jan. 23
CJ Yoder	Jan. 16	Simon Kauffman	Jan. 24
Nancy Kuhns	Jan. 17	Ashley Gallinger	Jan. 28
Ed Yoder	Jan. 17		

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Lonnie & Jenny Schrock January 10th

GETTING TO KNOW: Ashley Litwiller

An AMC Personal Profile

1. What is your job and what does it consist of?

—Minister of Worship & Youth - Spending personal time with God; listening, then talking; going on adventures and bonding with awesome Youth; creating environments of comfort, while also encouraging to follow God's movement out of the comfort zones; emailing; coordinating schedules; traveling; attend Worship Commission meetings, Discipling Commission Meetings, and Ministry Team meetings; creating programs for Young Adults & Jr High; I could go on...

—Receptionist @ Arthur Vet Clinic - always have a smiling face, create a welcome atmosphere, answer phones, create reports, restocking, filling prescriptions, walk dogs, assist Vet Techs and so on.

2. If you could go anywhere or do anything all expenses paid, what would you do?

Spend a full year touring the UK, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, & Greece.

3. What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?

James is my favorite book. 1 Chronicles 28:20 is my favorite verse. *David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.*

4. What toppings would you choose for your pizza?

Ham, Green Pepper & Mushroom.

5. What is your favorite kind of pie?

I'm not a huge pie person, but I've never said no to Oreo Pie.



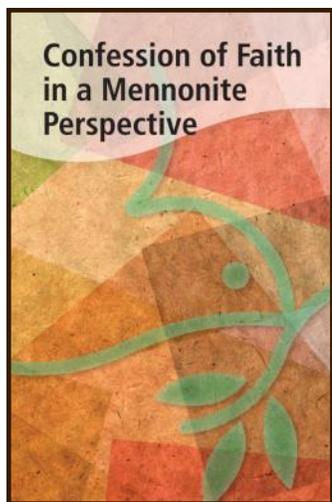
6. **Do you have a favorite book? If so, what is it?** My top 2 would have to be *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen & *The Mark of the Lion* series by Francine Rivers.

7. **What hobbies do you enjoy?** I like doing a lot of different things so it's probably easier to tell you what events I DON'T like: running, cleaning, wrestling/UFC/fighting, and listening to rap music.

8. Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?

My first camp experience, which was as a Counselor at Camp Amigo in Sturgis, MI as I was entering a way of life I knew nothing about and was limited with technology & communication with anyone outside the camp...and in 2015, with losing a grandpa & a grandma, graduating, moving, learning new jobs, meeting MANY people. He has been my Constant through it all (cue Francesca Battistelli's song "Constant").

9. **Interesting Facts?** I created a independent study in high school to take instead of having 2 study halls called "A Survey of British Women in History and Literature." I have a small obsession with Elizabethan Age England & modern day British Monarchy. The royal wedding happened the semester of the class so that whole week, the Royal wedding was our lesson plan. I would come in, the kettle would be on, and we would sit and read literature or talk about historical female leaders for a little over an hour every day.



CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE Article 1: God

Editors Note: This is the first in a monthly series. Each month we will include one of the articles from the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective so that we can all be refreshed on what they express.

We believe that God exists and is pleased with all who draw near by faith. We worship the one holy and loving God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally. We believe that God has created all things visible and invisible, has brought salvation and new life to humanity through Jesus Christ, and continues to sustain the church and all things until the end of the age.

Beginning with Abraham and Sarah, God has called forth a people of faith to worship God alone, to witness to the divine purposes for human beings and all of creation, and to love their neighbors as themselves. We have been joined to this people through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ and by confessing him to be Savior and Lord as the Holy Spirit has moved us.

We humbly recognize that God far surpasses human comprehension and understanding. We also gratefully acknowledge that God has spoken to humanity and related to us in many and various ways. We believe that God has spoken above all in the only Son, the Word who became flesh and revealed the divine being and character.

God's awesome glory and enduring compassion are perfect in holy love. God's sovereign power and unending mercy are perfect in almighty love. God's knowledge of all things and care for creation are perfect in preserving love. God's abounding grace and wrath against sinfulness are perfect in righteous love. God's readiness to forgive and power to transform are perfect in redemptive love. God's unlimited justice and continuing patience with humankind are perfect in suffering love. God's infinite freedom and constant self-giving are perfect in faithful love. To the one holy and ever-loving triune God be glory for ever and ever!

The AMC Christmas Program

We gathered on the evening of December 20th for our annual Christmas program. Here is a look at the events of the evening.



*Have
a Happy
New Year!*



Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to arthurmennonite@gmail.com

AMC Ministers: All of Jesus' followers here at Arthur Mennonite

Arthur Mennonite Church Ministry Team

Minister of Community Life and Administration:	Glen Rhodes	glenr68@gmail.com	273-5026
Minister of Discipling:	Jeff Marner	wookiee_77@hotmail.com	273-5089
Minister of Outreach:	Lamar Miller	lmillerpm1@yahoo.com	369-8237
Minister of Youth and Worship:	Ashley Litwiller	ashlit234@gmail.com	309-303-5159