



First Mennonite Church

Midweek E-Newsletter

August 4, 2021

From Pastor Tom

Visits!

On weeks when I'm not preaching (in this case because we leave for Colorado on Friday), I like to do some visiting. By which I mean visit our "seniors" in Parkside, Salem, and Bethesda. Here is a snapshot of who I visited and what we talked about.

Marcella Ediger doesn't get out of her room much. But she has a cozy chair from which she can read (she had a couple of newspapers beside her), watch some television, and watch the day go by outside her large window. She admits that sometimes things get boring. She had actually been out of her room recently for two events: she always plays bingo on Tuesdays; and she went to listen to a musical group (four women, and one man who plays some piano) performing familiar hymns, and inviting the audience to sing along. Marcella always tells me she is ready to go to heaven. At age 99 most of her family and friends are already gone. But she has three great "kids" (two daughters and a son) who keep in frequent touch. Still, not a day goes by that she doesn't think of her beloved husband Paul, now long gone.

Lois Groening was having a bit of a frustrating day. (But then, don't we all?) It will work out, she told me just before I left. She and son Kelly went on an outing to Marion yesterday, including stopping for a hamburger on the way back. She pretty much always has a jig-saw puzzle going, on a table in one corner of her room. She really enjoys having Kelly living in Hillsboro—not only does she get to see him more, but she gets to visit her comfortable old home (where Kelly now lives). On Sundays he comes to have lunch with her, and they often play Rummikub. Or dominoes. (Game playing is a favorite pastime she and I share in common!) She also enjoys visiting regularly on the phone with Terry. I showed her my tattoo and explained its significance. She did a good job of listening!

Velda Hiebert was just getting back from a shopping trip to Dale's. She admits that that is hard work! I could tell from the luscious smells in her kitchen that she has been baking. She told me that last week she had made some donuts . . . but realized too late that she had forgotten the sugar. Somehow I suspect that they were still delicious! She told me about her son Jack's visit earlier this summer (he lives in Pennsylvania). They went for lots of drives. I told Velda once again that she reminds me so much of my mom: her gestures, her expressions (both facial and verbal!), her speaking in Low German. And, oh yes, her baking. One of the first things she said to me when we sat down was "Where are the all the people?" By which she meant the people at church. I told her, "They'll come."

Glenn Goertz was just getting back from a session with his occupational therapist. Who "made" him walk (with a walker) from the elevator back to his apartment. He did just fine! Glenn showed me one of the wooden bowls he made in his shop at their house. It was stunningly beautiful, so many colors and patterns. I told him I could look at it for hours. Next he showed me a figure he had carved of a man, standing with one leg crossed over the other, leaning on a golf club. I asked him about the man's rather round belly. He said that used to be him! I loved the man's expression; the best word I can think of for is "laconic." (Maybe I'll look it up later to see if it's at all the right word.) Glenn misses his shop terribly. That is precisely what he wanted to do in his retirement. **Jan** returned from her appointment with

the hairdresser, looking cute as ever. She's discouraged about her neck; they only seem to know what it isn't, but not what it is. And so she has better days and poorer days. They are both so grateful for the good care they received all around in Wichita, with their family's help, and are hoping for more progress and improvement at Parkside.

Clariece Schroeder needed just a bit more time to finish her lunch (she says sometimes she moves so slowly!). She has a remarkable gift of being able to focus on the positive. She wakes up every day feeling grateful for being alive and for being at Parkside. (She's been there ten years.) Today we talked mostly about her family, starting with her kids. Two (or was it three?) of them live in Kansas City and one in Seattle. All are retired; one is now the president of a large company, with branches all over the U.S. One of her grandsons is hiking the Appalachian Trail! He started in April and has just now left Pennsylvania and entered New Jersey. I looked at the pictures he has been sending her— such scenery! I have backpacked on the northernmost 50 miles of the AT (all in Maine), so look forward to his pictures when he and his buddies are close to the end. Clariece recently was able to visit her dear brother **Clark (Wiebe)** at Bethesda in Goessel and was pleased to see him settling in so well.

Tomorrow I too will go to visit **Clark and Anna Marie**. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Events

- ☞ **Care Meeting is tonight, August 4 at 7 p.m.**
- ☞ **The Hillsboro Senior Center is holding a fundraiser Friday, August 6 from 6:30-8 p.m.** Stop by for homemade pie and ice cream plus music by Bob and the Boys! Donations are welcomed and appreciated.
- ☞ **Farewell for Wiebes and Harders.** A simple farewell is being planned for Glenn & Maura Wiebe and Keith & Judy Harder for Sunday, August 15, following the worship service. Mark your calendar. More information to come.
- ☞ **Discover and Affirm, also known as DnA.** This is an opportunity to spend 90 minutes or so reflecting on your gifts and sense of calling. We are overdue for our regular offering of this exercise at FMC. More information will be announced this coming Sunday morning.

Other Announcements

- ☞ **COVID-19 protocols:** The FMC Covid response team is urging the following in regard to the Covid virus: 1. Masks are highly recommended when we gather indoors, 2. Be alert to social distancing, 3. Stay tuned for further updates as we remain sensitive to county and CDC guidelines.
- ☞ **Peppernuts at FMC!** Our peppernuts project is beginning this week! We will begin this Friday, Aug. 6. **Our dates are Fri Aug 6, Sat Aug 7, Fri Aug 13, and Sat Aug 14.** Thank you to all who have already agreed to volunteer your time! A whole variety of tasks are involved, some that take good arm strength and others that involve a more relaxing arranging of dough on a cookie sheet. There is something for everyone! Please notify Kara at secretary@fmchillsboro.com or 620.947.5662 of dates you would like to help!
- ☞ **REQUESTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.** FMC desires to support FMC members and members' children who attend a Mennonite college or who choose to receive a seminary education. If you are interested in applying for such financial support (tuition) for the 2021-2022 academic year, contact Doug Miller.
- ☞ **Join Jerusalem Seminar this winter!** Bethel College and Tabor College are again sponsoring a trip to Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, from December 26, 2021, to January 15, 2022. The trip will be led by Dr. Doug Miller and will include two dozen biblical sites, such as Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, ancient ruins, Dead Sea and Dead Sea Scrolls, Masada, Mt. Nebo, Petra, museums, and much more. There is currently room for

additional persons to participate. If interested, contact Dr. Miller immediately at 620.947.2439 or dougm@tabor.edu. Cost is estimated at \$4700 per person.

Verse of the Week

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’” –1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV)