



Connections

Mennonite Women Canada encourages women to:

- nurture their life in Christ
- acknowledge and share their gifts
- hear and support each other
- serve and minister across the street and around the world



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4:10

Fill my cup, Lord...by Shirley Redekop

How full is your cup? What or who fills it up and what or who depletes it?

Last October, the women of MW Canada Executive met together in Winnipeg and brought along our favourite mugs (or a picture of one if it wouldn't travel well). We shared a bit about why our mugs were special to us.

In this issue of CONNECTIONS we share with you some of those pictures and stories. The mug I brought with me is misshapen and I love it. The potter who had made the mug saw that I had it and was aghast. She thought she had thrown it out. I'm so glad she didn't because this mug reminds me of my life. It's definitely not perfect, and although it's misshapen, it's still loved, and can still be used to share with and care for others.

Sometimes our mugs are full to the brim and overflowing with joy and happiness. Sometimes we feel our mugs are empty, depleted and exhausted.

This is when we need each other ~ to meet together, encourage one another, pray, and laugh together ~ to refill our mugs, whatever shape they may be. This is what happened as we shared at the meeting in Winnipeg. I left feeling more connected and cared for; my cup was full. God's spirit was among us!

Recently I heard a short video of Vandana Shiva, a physicist and activist from India say "Women with their caring and sharing (*filling and emptying*) will be the teachers of how to be human in the future". (*italics mine*) Let's keep meeting together as women of faith and as MW Canada. *Blessings!*



Current Executive:

Kathy Giesbrecht (MB), Elsie Rempel (Secretary/Treasurer), Shirley Redekop (President), Kate Janzen (AB), Waltrude Gortzen (BC), Mel Harms (SK), Carmen Brubacher (ON).

My Favourite Mug/Cup



This mug and coaster were a gift of love from the mother of one of my last grade threes back in 2002. She carefully wrote each of my students names on to it to remind me of them. And it has. After I joined FB I became a friend to them, where I still enjoy keeping up with their adventures and accomplishments. And, now that I have retired, I am once more stepping into a number of teaching roles. This mug reminds me of my calling to teach as well as my former students.
~ **Elsie Rempel**



When asked about our favourite cups in the fall my mind went

blank. I am not a coffee drinker and have no attachments to anything like that. But as I thought more about it I realized that my favourite cup is one that belongs to my Grandma. For years I've been going to visit her while my girls danced. So every Monday she would put on the kettle for my tea and I'd look for the biggest, prettiest teacup so I didn't have to fill it so often. After awhile Grandma caught on to my preference and would often tell me where to find my cup. When she moved out of her place last fall, my cup was one of the few dishes that followed. It amazed me how a simple teacup could hold so much value, but with it comes so many memories and many more yet to come. ~ **Mel Harms**



I think I mentioned in the fall that I couldn't just choose one special mug. Mugs are like scrapbooks as they represent different times and experiences in life. Each of these mugs conjure up faces of the people who gave them to me: children I took care of, seminary, Ottawa Mennonite Church, Milwaukee Mennonite Church, and the blue "everyday" mug that I bought myself and represents "just" me! And when I share coffee with friends, in a way, it blends my life together! ~ **Carmen Brubacher**



The mug with the pictures was a gift from our Hmong Retreat Committee member and I really appreciate her doing that for the 3 of us on the photo - Rita Siebert, myself, and Cheryl Dyck. It will be a lovely reminder of my years with MCBC Women's Ministry. The green mug is one that I bought myself because I just plain liked it. The verse on it is: "With God all things are possible." ~ **Waltrude Gortzen**

I picked this mug because it reminds me of my granddaughter Quinlan who is studying ballet in NYC. She and her family live on the farm with us. When she left to live in this big city I was worried. But God provides! Not one, but two, Mennonite families have opened their homes and she has a safe and warm place to live. ~ **Kate Janzen**



Opportunities for Giving

Fill my cup, Lord

Like the woman at the well
I was seeking for things that could satisfy
But then I heard the Savior calling
Draw from this well that shall never run dry

Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole

There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures earthly things afford
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ, my Lord

Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole

Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up, Lord
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole

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Richard Blanchard (1959)

2017-18 SGAF Recipients

HyunHee Kim, originally from South Korea, is working on a Masters degree in Peace Studies at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, MB.

Marlene Wiebe, from Gretna, MB, is working on a degree in Chaplaincy at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, MB.

SGAF APPLICATIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR AVAILABLE AT

<http://women.mennonitechurch.ca/SGAF> or by contacting Shirley Redekop, President at presmwcanada@gmail.com

- **Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund (SGAF)**
- **Pennies and Prayer Legacy Fund (PPLF)**
- **International Ministry Project**
- **Publication and Communication**
- **Support Ministries**

For more information please visit our website at:

<http://women.mennonitechurch.ca/>

2018 Bible Study Guide *Every Day Worship* by Carol Penner

Discover the rhythm of worship. Every day, every week, every year, there are ways to worship God. **Every Day**

Worship inspires women to be worshipful people, not just people who worship. Using the elements of a worship service, author **Carol Penner** guides and invites women to dive deep into Scripture and faith through worship experiences.



Please contact Liz Koop at koopfarms@becon.org or 905-562-5920 to receive a **complimentary copy** for your church. Additional orders are also available through her. Cost to be determined.

NEW ~ PPLF / International Ministry Project for 2018



Bock Ki Kim & Sook Kyoung Park are serving in a ministry assignment in South Korea. In partnership with the Korea Anabaptist Centre (KAC) they are working to strengthen the church in South Korea through networking and developing Anabaptist resources for Korean congregations. They relate closely to the Korean Anabaptist Fellowship (KAF), a community of individuals who seek to promote Anabaptist perspectives in Christian churches throughout Korea. Sook Kyoung nurtures the mind and soul of Korean children who come to her after-school homework classes.

Across our Country

Regional Events

April 20 & 21, 2018 ~ WMCEC Enrichment Weekend beginning at North Leamington United Mennonite Church and ending at Point Pelee National Park. Theme: **Living Creatively**. Speaker: April Yamasaki. For more info visit <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.com/2018/02/wmcec-spring-enrichment-day-april-20-21.html>

April 28, 2018 ~ MWM invites women to hear Dr. Moira Somers, a Winnipeg neuropsychologist, speak on **“Resilience Road: Struggle, Steps and Strategies”** at Charleswood Mennonite Church, 699 Haney Street, Winnipeg from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. For more info visit the Events page at www.mennochurch.mb.ca

May 5, 2018 – MCBC Women’s Ministry Spring Inspirational Day. For more information contact Janette Thiessen at 604-850-6658 or email her at admin@mcbc.ca

June 8 – 10, 2018 ~ MW AB will host its Annual Women’s Retreat at Sylvan Lake, AB. Guest Speaker: Rachel Jacobs Miller from AMBS. Theme: **“Ordinary Forgiveness”**.

October 13 & 14, 2018 ~ MW Sask will host its Annual Women’s Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Details not available at this time. For more information please contact Mel Harms at cmharms3@gmail.com



Become a follower on our blog at <http://mennowomencanada.blogspot.ca/> and get the latest updates on our projects and events. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Tanzania Caring, Sharing & Safari Tour for Women --- August 4-13, 2018

Join Mennonite women from across Canada and the US for an intergenerational women’s tour in Tanzania. Visit social enterprises. Learn about the Maasai way of life in a traditional village. Buy unique crafts at a local market and a social enterprise for people with disabilities. Interact with local Mennonite congregations and/or women’s groups. See elephants, lions, giraffes, monkeys, zebras and other wildlife plus a large assortment of colourful birds on safaris. Tour leader Shirley Redekop is the President of Mennonite Women Canada. For more info: <https://www.tourmagination.com/tour/tanzania/>

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