

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

November 2013

NEWS & PRAISE & PRAYER

West Zion Church has continued to grow in the midst of a pastoral search and a building program. The building is nearing completion, and provides them with well planned space for ministry. **Pastor Mal & Eleanor** have served as full-time interim pastor to the end of August and are now serving at 1/4 time. Pray for West Zion as they search for a pastor.

In September **Pastor Jose & Carmen Gurdian** moved from Medicine Hat to Red Deer. They have faithfully served in **Medicine Hat** for several years. The congregation has felt deeply the loss of their pastor, but have committed themselves to work hard and to believe that God will provide them with the pastor they need. Pray for Medicine Hat as they search for a pastor.

The **Red Deer** congregation is blessed and excited to move forward under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Jose & Carmen who were installed on Oct 6. During the absence of pastoral leadership the board worked hard at maintaining unity and vision in the church, and they



renovated the lower auditorium of the building. The church is and has remained strong and is in a good position to move forward in ministry under the leadership that Pastor Jose & Carmen will provide. Praise God and also pray for them and the church as they step into this ministry.



Wedding Joy. Ursula Moeller and Pastor Alvin Penner were married in Duchess at a beautiful ceremony on Sept. 21. Pray for them as Alvin and his children welcome Ursula into their family, and for Ursula as she steps into the role of wife, step-mom and being a pastor's wife.

The **Pastor/Spouse Retreat** in September was a great time of making connections praying and thinking together about the joy of being called into pastoral leadership. Thank you to those who gave donations that made this a great success.



In October the **NWMC Board** met in Red Deer to try a new way of connecting. The goal is to better connect with the pastors and leadership of our churches.



This was well attended and a good time of sharing between leaders and board. . . A wonderful meal was served by the church. This was a valuable time together and the plan is to do this in the future in the south and north.

On October 25-27 the Calgary congregation hosted a **Youth Prayer Event**. The attendance was good, the event bringing together young people from several congregations. To learn about overcoming the powers of evil through prayer.



Pray for our **Office Administrator**, Carol Gelleny as she works behind the scenes, and especially as she begins all of the year end work of balancing the books and office duties. Carol & Dan celebrate their 30th anniversary this November. **Happy Anniversary Dan & Carol!**



Praise God for the **birth** of "Theo" (8lbs. 4oz. 21 in. on Sunday Nov 3, 2013) to Pastor Nathan & Erin Ramer serving in Duchess. His full name is Theodereon Robert Thaddeus Ramer. Pronunciation guide: Thay-o-darian. BUT his nickname, Theo, is as you would normally hear it: Thee-o.

This year we have built on the concept of **Cluster Meetings** for the pastor couples. The goal is to have 2 in each area. The north cluster met in Valleyview Oct 19, the south met in Brooks Nov 2 and central in Red Deer Nov 16. This is a time for pastor couples in these respective areas to meet together over a noon meal, to share and to pray.

Pray for Conference Pastor Dave & Joanne Peters as they travel extensively on your behalf to visit the congregations and to meet with and encourage the pastoral families.

Thank You for your faithfulness in praying for and giving to the Northwest Mennonite Conference.

Check our website nwmc.ca for more photos of activities in the churches.