

# Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter  
July 2012

## Bluesky Baptism

The Freed Family was thankful for blue skies on the morning of June 24th, 2012. Their daughter, Jocalyn and her friend Katie Miller were being baptized that day. The Freeds had invited the people of Bluesky Mennonite Church to their family farm for the Baptismal Service, and a potluck and wiener roast were to follow.

The girls had thought of having the baptism in the dugout of the Freed Farm, but upon inspection, it wasn't suitable. They decided on a clearing by a cabin, and when Pastor Werner asked about a tank, father Neil replied, "Don't worry, I'll take care of it."

And he did. He bought a pool! The service included singing accompanied by accordion and flute, a children's feature by Pastor Werner, testimonies by Katie and Jocalyn and a message brought by Conference



Minister Mal Braun. Katie and Jocalyn gave clear testimony as to the work that God had done in their hearts and lives and their desire to follow Him. Werner's wife Linda assisted in the baptism.

A cabin built by Neil Freed according to the design of the original homestead cabin built in 1913 became the serving place for the potluck. A tent was set up behind the cabin to shade the tables. After the meal, the young people went swimming while the others chatted or went for a hike.

All in all, it was day of rejoicing in the goodness of God!

Katie Miller and Jocalyn Freed



## Ladies' Retreat



An NWMC Ladies' Retreat was held on May 25-27, 2012 at Camp Silversides. It was the first one held for many years, and the idea was greeted with great enthusiasm. A group called REAL LIFE shared their stories and music, Carmen Wilson led a card workshop, and Saturday afternoon many braved a ride on the zip line!



The ladies' response was very positive about the speaking, music, food, and fun. One comment was, "It was an awesome first retreat!"

Camp Silversides has been booked for May 3-5, 2013, so ladies, plan ahead for next year's Retreat!



## Kiriaka Farewell



On June 24, 2012 the West Zion Mennonite Church in Carstairs said farewell to their well-loved pastoral family of 10 years.

Pastor Trevor Kiraka, his wife Phyllis and children Alex, Kevin and Carson are moving to Salmon Arm, British Columbia where Trevor will be teaching at the newly established sister school to Millar College of the Bible.

The College will be using the facilities of Sunny Brae Bible Camp. Trevor had taught at Millar College before accepting the call to pastor at West Zion.

Conference Minister Mal Braun will be completing his time with NWMC at the end of July, and will take on an Interim Pastor position at West Zion beginning September first until they find a permanent pastor.

## Prayer Request: Arlene and Alvin Penner



Arlene Penner is facing a battle with cancer of the esophagus. This is the third time she has had cancer and so treatment options are limited. Please pray for Arlene and her husband, Alvin, pastor of the Duchess Mennonite Church, and their family as they make decisions and face this battle together.

