



Rainbow Mennonite Church

Worship 9:30am

Fellowship Time 10:30am

Sunday School 10:50am

1444 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66103

Robert Kaufman, Pastor

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On My Mind . . .

You wouldn't think it would have "blown me away" so. After all, I've known for a long time that Rainbow Mennonite Church is filled with folks that have extraordinary gifts and abilities which they willingly share for the good of the congregation! I'd previously witnessed the extraordinary dedication and work of the Building Committee ('04-'06); the SCR Strategic Planning task force ('05-'06); the Appreciative Inquiry task force ('07-'08); and was blown away each time by the job that each of these groups did. So the quality of the work by the task force on Church Structure really shouldn't have surprised (and in fact, didn't). And yet, when I read the report they submitted to Church Council, it happened again!

In all seriousness, the report from the task force studying Church Structure clearly represents a great deal of time, dedication and hard work. And the recommendations that it makes deserve the church council and congregation's careful consideration. If you have not yet seen it I urge you to request a copy from the church office or download it from the church website at www.rainbowmennonite.org.

In anticipation of the completion of the task force's work, the church council leadership team (Past-moderator, Moderator, and Moderator-elect) and I met in September to plan the next steps for how the report will be processed. It is our intention to attempt to reach congregational consensus around the report and to determine next steps using a process for congregational decision making recommended by Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR). (See Carmen Shelly's article in the September/October church newsletter).

We know that adhering to a decision-making process that relies on building consensus can't be rushed. But we are also well aware of the dangers

Robert Kaufman

and risks associated with not pushing forward as quickly as possible. Therefore I want to take this opportunity to urge everyone who would like to participate in the decision regarding where to go from here to please commit to the following:

1) Be informed. Read the documents over several times carefully and prayerfully and note your reaction to each of the recommendations. Is the issue/concern that has been identified a valid one—one that *needs* to be addressed? If so, does the recommendation adequately address it or do you have ideas how it might be better addressed in some other way? Yours really might be a better solution!

2) Be willing to publicly own your opinions. Church Council and I really want to hear from everyone so that your concerns and suggestions can be incorporated into the process. But that can't happen unless you are willing to own them and share them when invited to do so.

3) Be objective. Keep the big picture in mind, remembering that the goal of this process is to discern what is in the best interest of the church as a whole rather than that of any one individual or small group of individuals.

4) And then finally, be accommodating. Once a decision has been reached, accept it and support it as fully as you can.

Making significant changes to our church structure will require our full commitment to the process. Unless we are vigilant in this effort we will be tempted to fall back to doing it "like we've always done it."

I want to thank Alan, Eric, Karen, Tanya, and especially Chairman Kent for getting Rainbow Mennonite Church on to the road to some much needed changes to our structure. May the Lord guide us and bless us on the journey. And for today, that's what's on my mind. Robert

CROSS-LINES CHRISTMAS STORE 2009

Whether it be with your time or your funds, you can experience the joy of contributing to this great cause! Sign up for the times you can help or call Dennis or Annie Jones (913.492.7081) or Becky Bartel (913.888.6878) to volunteer. If you would like to make a financial donation, please make checks payable to Rainbow Mennonite Church, designated for “Cross-Lines Christmas Store.”

This year we plan on buying most of the food we need from Hy-Vee. We estimate that we will need at least \$6,500+ to pay for what we order. Below is a partial list of what we buy:

Peanut Butter	Flour	Sugar	Oil
Tuna	Soups	Vegetables (canned)	Fruit (canned)
Desserts (boxed)		Other items as needed	

Schedule

Store set up.....November 14 – December 4
Times to be announced

Run the store December 6 - 12
Morning and afternoon shifts

(The store will be in a strip mall located at 6535 State Ave, Kansas City, KS, near the old Wal-Mart Store)

The Cross-Lines Christmas Store is a tradition begun by the Rainbow Mennonite Church and the Sharing Community in Rosedale. In fact, the first store was held in our church’s Fellowship Hall. It has grown from an informal sharing of surplus food and used clothing to a more formalized Christmas-time “thing.”

Approximately 500 families will come to “shop” this year. Each family is given an appointed time to come and pay a small fixed amount to shop. By organizing it this way, we provide some sense of responsibility and dignity that comes, we hope, with choice. Shoppers pick out a new toy or gift item and articles of clothing for each member of the family so that everyone has a new gift for Christmas. All items are new, and we’ll have new coats for children available.



Rainbow Mennonite Church is responsible for the food section of the store. The Kansas East Conference of United Methodist Churches has a Bishops’ Roundup of contributed items, including food. **We will need a few volunteers to help with unloading these items on the day of the Roundup.** Area churches also give non-perishable food to Cross-Lines directly. All of these items must be sorted and ready to set up the store. We prefer cash donations as this cuts down the number of volunteers needed to sort and stack food. Other churches have taken on the responsibility for the toys, gifts, and clothing.

After picking out their gifts and clothing, clients have an opportunity to “shop” for food for their families. Volunteers escort the families to answer questions while they shop; other volunteers restock the shelves as needed.

**Please consider making a cash donation and/or being a volunteer this year –
let’s make Christmas meaningful for families in need.**

Checks may be made payable to RMC; include “Cross-Lines Christmas Store” in the memo line.

Community Service Coordinator Update

Rachel Hostetler

Here are a couple of highlights of what's been happening this fall, and the many upcoming service opportunities in November and December.

CROP Walk

On a chilly October afternoon, 21 adults and youth from our church participated in the Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk. Many thanks to all who participated in the CROP Walk this year and everyone who financially supported them. Our church raised \$1810, which will help alleviate hunger and overcome poverty in Kansas City and around the world. Pictures are available on the church website.

Healthy Kids Initiative

This past Saturday I had the joy of watching 5-7 year old children from Rosedale play soccer. It's always entertaining to watch young children play soccer, but part of what made it so exciting is that the children were from Rosedale. For the first time, there were 3 soccer teams comprised of Rosedale youth! The Healthy Kids Initiative helped make this happen through their advocacy with Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation and volunteers who went to elementary schools in Rosedale and recruited soccer players. They practice at Rosedale Park and play games at Kensington Park on the weekends. I heard more than one parent express appreciation in having the soccer practices at Rosedale Park, which was much closer. The next steps include advocating for the creation of a permanent soccer field in Rosedale. Many people from our church have already gotten involved with the Healthy Kids Initiative, but there continue to be many opportunities as the initiative progresses forward. For more information, check out their website www.rosedale.org/healthykidsinitiative or contact Heidi Holliday at 913.236.6337.



Upcoming Events:

Family Game Night - Tuesday, November 10, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Come enjoy a very fun evening of pizza and games with the families of Freedom School children at our church. This event is sponsored by the Outreach Committee and is a great opportunity to interact with children and families in the Rosedale neighborhood. We are looking for adults willing to offer assistance to the kids in how to play the board games. If you plan to attend, RSVP to rachelh@rainbowmennonite.org so we know how much pizza to order.

Rosedale Community Thanksgiving Worship Service - Tuesday, November 24

Organized by the interdenominational and ecumenical Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, this year's Thanksgiving service will be held at our church. Come worship together with parishioners and neighbors from other Rosedale churches and enjoy a time of fellowship afterwards.

Feed-a-Family

The annual Feed-a-Family program, sponsored by Rosedale Development Association and Rosedale Ministerial Alliance, will be held in November this year. Seniors and families in difficult times receive a Thanksgiving gift basket with an assortment of food and household items. You are invited to participate in this outreach program by making a cash donation, sponsoring a complete basket for a family or donating non-perishable food items. Stay tuned for more information.

Cross-Lines Christmas Store

Our church will again help organize the Cross-Lines Christmas Store this year as we have for so many years. Refer to the preceding page in this newsletter explaining how you can get involved.

Willa Gill Food Kitchen - Friday, December 4

Join with other church volunteers in serving food at Willa Gill Food Kitchen in downtown Kansas City, KS.

Leyva Family Update

The Leyva Family is a member of our RMC congregation. Jannette, Alvaro, and their 3 children, David, Andres and Santiago, worshipped with us for 7 years after they came from Colombia South America, seeking political asylum. Their appeal for asylum was ultimately denied and they were deported back to Colombia in July 2008. In Colombia, they continue to struggle to make a living and feed their three teenage boys. Alvaro has not been living in the same city with his wife and boys since their arrival in Colombia. Initially he was working part time, occasional jobs in Bogota, and now has moved to Baranquilla for six months to work for a family member. Baranquilla is a 22 hour bus ride from the town of Ibague, where the rest of the family lives, near to Jannette's parents. Janette has just obtained part-time work, earning US \$300 per month. This barely covers utility expenses, "but is at least something" she says. They have become active in the very small Mennonite congregation in Ibague, where Jannette is taking on some pastoral roles. The couple continues to worry about their safety and security in Colombia. They are in hopes that the Canadian government will give Alvaro a minister's visa, so that they could move to Canada.

The family considers us their Church family, and their support system. Jannette writes eloquently of her emotional connection to Rainbow, and how this helps her "make it". She sends her fondest regards to everyone. The family was very grateful for the recent monetary support from the Deacon's fund. It came during a very, very tough economic time for them.

The children have been attending a private high school in Ibague, el Colegio Ingles. The education is rigorous, and although might not meet US standards, it is far better than the public school options. It also provides ongoing opportunities for the boys in English language studies. By Colombian standards, tuition costs are quite steep, and the family is grateful beyond belief to members of Rainbow who have covered the tuition and fees for the three boys for their first full year there.

The eldest, David, will be graduating (I suspect with honors) on November 30, and will take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) on November 7; the TOEFL is required by US colleges of students graduating outside of the United States. His application to Bethel is in process. While he is very hopeful that he will be able to get a student visa to get back into the United States, paying for the plane ticket and other expenses is a whole other matter!

Andres and Santiago will continue in the Colegio for next semester. As of this writing, I have not confirmed tuition costs for the two boys - but suspect the total will be in the range of \$2000.00, Look for details in the upcoming Sunday Newsnotes. I know that you will respond to the extent you are able to this request for support.

—Sallie Page-Goertz
Chair of the Leyva Fund committee

share the joy

This Christmas, choose a gift for family and friends that helps one more child sleep in a safe shelter, one more family add to its herd or flock or one more community have safe drinking water. With Mennonite Central Committee, even a small donation can make a big difference.



 mcc.org/christmas
Give a gift that matters

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 3	Marina Kaufman	December 1	Markus Bollinger
November 4	Tom Fretz	December 4	Kennedy Kaufman
	Jeff Shelly		Karen Siebert
November 5	Judy Selzer	December 5	Heidi Simones
	Daniel Coronado	December 7	Austin Ramsey
November 6	Carol Buller	December 11	Kathryn Kreider
	LeeAnn Duncan	December 13	Joe Duerksen
	Elaine Bartel	December 14	Holly Kaufman
November 6	Gilbert Alliman	December 22	Eli Coronado
November 8	Michael Horner		Jake Hacker
November 9	Don Moeller	December 23	Seth Campbell
	Brooke Banning	December 24	Clif Hostetler
November 11	Eugene Suter	December 25	Joyce Mills
November 13	Bonnie Welty	December 26	Byron Lange
November 15	Caitlin Buerge	December 27	John Mueller
	Karen Hostetler	December 28	Terri Gaeddert
November 16	Phil Rhoads	December 30	Todd Zehner
November 18	Brian Pauls		
November 21	Kenn Goertz		
November 24	Bob Boehm		
November 27	John Albertson		
	Rhonda Ramsey		
	Whitney Janzen-Pankratz		
November 28	Tanya Ortman		



(If we've missed your birthday or anniversary in these lists, please contact the church office at office@rainbowmennonite.org or at 913.236.8820 so we have it for next year!)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

November 26	Phil and Marsha Rhoads
December 2	John and Maggi Mueller
December 13	Steve and Janet Bartel
December 18	Kent and Lori Lichty
December 21	Steve and Kathryn Simmons
December 22	Hal and Bernita Boyts
	Dennis and Annie Jones
December 31	Jonathan and Emily Wiebe

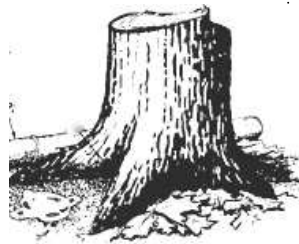


Answer:
Archie Regier.
Ask Archie why
he named it
Da Vinci's Dream.



Check inside for
the return of
the birthday list!

**Leaves, hot chocolate,
apple cider and doughnuts**
Enjoy these at Whitmore
Playground on Saturday,
November 14 at 8:00am. Bring
your family and friends and join
us for a leaf raking day in the
park. Bring rakes, leaf vacuums
and brooms. Bring bags if you
wish to take home some leaves
for your garden. Many hands
make less work in less time!!



Playground Stumper:
Question: Who was the
artist who designed and
built Da Vinci's Dream in
Whitmore Playground?