

Joy Mennonite Church Newsletter

Grace Rogers passed away the sixth of this month. Grace had been a missionary in Central and South America. In her retirement years Grace remained active, working with people from many denominations on issues of peace and justice.

I can not remember when I first met Grace. She was one of those persons that after a short acquaintance you feel like you have always known them. We would meet at the Peace House or at a prayer vigil. We were members together of Hemispheric Reconciliation Group. Grace supported the efforts of Pastors for

Peace and was a part of Women for Guatemala.

The bond I feel toward a person like Grace is very special. Our hearts were drawn together by a common faith commitment and by sharing the task. This kind of relationship does not make demands of the other person but rather is just grateful for that person. To be with people like Grace one feels inspired and encouraged to keep on with the tasks.

Grace was also a member of a congregation. Members of the congregation were dear to her just as she was dear to them. Both the congregation and the inter-faith task centered

groups are important in our faith journey.

The church may tend to focus on its own success and survival and neglect the task our Lord called us to. The task centered groups may focus on the suffering of starvation and violence and forget that those who have all physical needs met still need the ministry of loving concerned people. There is no place like the church that provides a place for everyone, those who are like me and those who are not like me, for the weak and the strong. It is true the people of the church have been exclusive, racist and class conscious. That is a human problem that is

everywhere. In spite of its failure the church is also a place where people are included, people rejected in other circles may be included in the church. More than anyone it has been the church that sought the outcasts like the lepers, the foreigners and aliens, the illiterate and addressed their need.

I am grateful for people like Grace Rogers in my life. I am also grateful for my church and my denomination. I do not choose between them but both are important to me in my faith journey and faith commitment.

Moses Mast

I've had so many good experiences here since moving here from Kansas nearly two years ago. I take work as a nurse quite seriously when dealing with families and their loved ones. Working at University Hospital has opened literally a whole new venue of learning about new cultures, specifically

Native people and inmates that are incarcerated for long periods of time.

One day we had a twenty eight year old Cherokee woman die from end stageliver disease. Her family included two children under the age of ten, and her husband. After we as the health care team provided are last hope of life

for her, her Medicine Man came and blessed and chanted over her in his native language, Another story involved the death of another native person from Meeker. He in this case was the last one in his family who new the native language and could pass this on to the little ones, Both these stories may seem

insignificant but they both made me realize not only what a rich cultural diversity we have here in Oklahoma but also the way we have begun to loose this diversity through incorporating everyone into mainstream America.

Thank you O Lord for allowing me the opportunity to pray and

fellowship with others that are different from me. Grant me wisdom, compassion and understanding when dealing with some of those who have drifted away from you by breaking man's and your law. Amen

Brian Warkentine

News

Chris Jennings is recovering from a back surgery he had May 7th. He was injured in a car accident several years ago and has had problems ever since.

Saturday May 13th, the youth and Beverly Bliss from Hopefield helped repair bicycles to be sent to Central America.

May 7th, The Warkentines were in Kansas to celebrate her parent's , Randolph and Laura Flamings' 50th wedding anniversary.

May 19th, People of Joy Mennonite were invited to the Blisses for a celebration in honor of Haley's graduation. Congratulations to Haley on her High School graduation.

May 21, Joy Mennonite people had a potluck and business meeting.

Coming Events

Kyle Bliss and B.J. Wood are giving to the M.D.S. youth work camp in Kansas on June 1-4.

The Masts will be on vacation for several weeks in June.

June 16-22, Survivors and victim's family members of the Embassy bombing in Nairobi, Kenya will be in Oklahoma City to meet and share with the survivors and

victim's family members of the Murrah building bombing. This is being done through the effort of the Conflict Transformation program of Eastern Mennonite University as another way to bring healing.

*Joy Mennonite Church
meets at 504 NE 16th.*

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