

*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”*

**Niagara United Mennonite Church**

August 1, 2010

**Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.**

**Gathering ~**

Marlene Borzychowski

**Worship in Song ~**

“To God Be The Glory”

*Rachael Pellitteri*

“You Are Salt For The Earth”

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

**Congregational Life**

Erv Willms

Offering ~ Budget

Hymn HWB # 306 “In Christ there is no East or West”

**Proclamation**

“Praise Him, Praise Him”

**“Small Church: Big Empire”**

**Pastor Rudy Dirks**

(Colossians 1:1-14, pew bible pg. 1142)

**Sending ~** Colossians 3:17

~~~~~  
*“Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community”* expresses our desire to share our faith and love of Jesus Christ with all we meet. We welcome you and hope that your time with us will be enjoyable and enlightening.  
~~~~~

**JOYS AND CONCERNS:**

**We express our condolences** to Margaret Warkentin on the passing of her sister Lucy Schneider, who died on July 21<sup>st</sup> in St. Catharines. A celebration of her life was held yesterday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at Tallman’s Funeral Home. May God bless her as she grieves the loss of her sister.

**Please pray** for Elisabeth (Wiens) Peters who has been moved from Pleasant Manor to the hospice in St. Catharines. Her family is with her, and they appreciate your continued prayers for them. May God grant comfort and peace.

**WITHIN NIAGARA UM CHURCH:**

**Sept/Oct.** issues of the Upper Room are available at the Welcome Centre.

**DVBS** is **August 16-20** this summer. If you would like to volunteer for teaching, singing, drama, art and sports, please contact Lolita Hale at 905-468-8392 or lolita@mcgarrealty.com.

**REESOR REUNION PICNIC** for former residents of Reesor, their families, relatives and friends on Sunday, **August 8**, 2010, at Backus Mill Conservation Park in Port Rowan. Memorial Service and Devotions begin at **11:00 a.m.** Business meeting and luncheon to follow. For further details please call Martha Bartel or Mary Wiebe at 519-586-2986

## **Contract Renewal Vote –**

Pastors Rudy & Sharon Dirks' contracts with our congregation expire on December 31, 2010. We will be holding a membership vote after the church service on September 19, 2010 on whether to offer them a third term.

Rudy & Sharon have indicated that if we offer them another contract they will be taking a four month sabbatical during this next term. This has been reviewed by both Church & Spiritual Councils who support their sabbatical plan and have prepared an information package for church members.

The information package includes material that was presented at the Spring Membership Meeting and is available at the Welcome Centre, the mail area and on the church web site under the "News" tab.

### ***"Subverting the Empire"*** **Colossians 1-4**

Caesar ruled the world. Pax Romana governed the affairs of every nation, racial group, family, and person. Rome demanded everyone's ultimate allegiance. The Emperor was to be worshipped above all other religions. It is in this context that Paul wrote his letter to the churches of Colossae and Laodicea. A warm, personal, powerful letter to a small group of Christians who were just trying to figure out how to live as an outpost of the kingdom of God within a dominant, seemingly invincible empire.

Over the next few weeks we will explore this letter and discover how remarkably relevant its message still is for us in our age of empires:

August 1           ***"Small Church: Big Empire"***  
Colossians 1:1-14

August 8           ***"Subverting the Empire"***  
Colossians 1:15-23

August 15          ***"Giving it Everything"***  
Colossians 1:24-2:5

August 22          ***"Don't Get Religious"***  
Colossians 2:6-23

August 29          ***"Ruled by the Peace of Christ"***  
Colossians 3:1- 4:1

September 5       ***"Finish What You Start"***  
Colossians 4:2-18

As we study this letter together, I invite you to read the passages on your own as we study them. Read them in different Bible versions. Think of one question for each passage. Underline a key phrase or verse in each passage in your own Bible. Ask God to speak to you through His Word, so that you too can grow in wisdom and faithfulness to the gospel just like the Colossian believers – and by extension, so that we as a congregation (just another outpost of the kingdom of God living among our empires) can increasingly be ruled by Christ in everything.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE Aug. 1-7/2010)**

**Monday:** OFFICE CLOSED

**Tuesday:** Young women's bible study 7:00 pm

**Next Sunday, August 8, 2010**

**9:00 am** German Worship Service ~ message by Udo Woelke

**10:00 am** Worship Service ~ message by Pastor Rudy Dirks

There will be no nursery volunteers for the summer months.

**Offering July 25, 2010 ~ \$ 5,997.50**

Budget	3,900.00	MCC General	475.00
Christian Witness	1,392.50	MCC Africa	40.00
Menn. Ctr for Ukraine	50.00	MCC Food	20.00
		Balcony	120.00

**Next Week's offering (Aug. 8):** MCC

**Attendance July 25, 2010:** German Service ~ 71; Worship Service ~ 193

**IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND:**

**Friesen Family Band in concert:** Two nights—Friday, **Aug 20, 7 pm**, Vineland United Mennonite Church, 3327 Menno St., Vineland; and Saturday, **Aug 21, 7 pm**, Scott Street Mennonite Brethren Church, 339 Scott St., St Catharines. Free admission; an offering will be taken.