



# The Vine

October 2016

*Becoming a community through which God's healing and hope can flow to the world*

## **First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana**

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Compiled by: Amber Anderson



## **Janet Elaine Guthrie**

### **PBL High School Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2016**

Janet Elaine Guthrie graduated from Paxton Community High School in 1967. She spent the 1966-67 academic year attending high school in Denmark, the first student from Paxton to participate in a year-long international exchange program through American Field Service. After graduating high school, she enrolled at the University of Illinois where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. From there, Janet went on to study at Harvard University where she earned a Master of Arts in Germanic Languages & Literatures in 1972 and her Ph.D. in 1975.

Dr. Guthrie spent the next thirty years working in the field of post-secondary education. Her first appointment was at Harvard University, where she taught and oversaw the academic progress and personal welfare of undergraduates at Lowell House, one of twelve undergraduate houses at Harvard. From 1977-1991, Dr. Guthrie served Pacific Lutheran University in a variety of roles including assistant professor, associate professor, Professor of Languages, Coordinator of Scandina-

vian Area Studies, Chair of the Department of Languages, and Dean of Humanities. After fourteen years at Pacific Lutheran University, Dr. Guthrie spent five years as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Nebraska Wesleyan University and another five as President of Hollins University. She then returned to Pacific Lutheran University from 2002-2005 to serve as the inaugural Director of the Wang Center for International Programs, which works to support and strengthen Pacific Lutheran University's internationally focused academic programs and outreach.

A call to the ministry led her to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, where she earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2008, serving during this time as pastoral intern at College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. In 2008, she returned to central Illinois to become the Lead Pastor at First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana, a post she held for eight years before retiring in June 2016.





Noteworthy among various honors and awards is her election in 1994 to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Her book *New Land, New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest* (University of Washington Press, 5<sup>33</sup>7) draws on an archive of oral history interviews she developed with grant support. She also has numerous publications in academic journals. Dr. Guthrie has served as a board member for many organizations, including Heritage University, Mennonite Education Agency, Norwegian-American Historical Association, Roanoke Valley Economic Development Partnership, Tacoma World Affairs

Council, United Way, Washington State Folklife Council, and Western Virginia Foundation for the Arts and Sciences.

[Note for the record: in 2013, Janet reclaimed legally her family name of Guthrie; from 1972 - 2013, her legal name was Janet E. Rasmussen]

Source: PBL Website (<https://sites.google.com/a/pblpanthers.org/pbl-hall-of-fame/home/class-of-2016>)

**"Reading the Bible with Jesus":** Reba Place Church in Evanston, IL, will host itinerant Bible teacher and singer/songwriter Bryan Moyer-Suderman for a seminar and family-friendly concert, January 20-22, 2017. Known especially for his "songs of faith for small and tall," Bryan has received excellent reviews from both Mennonite pastors and congregations and well-known authors and speakers Brian McLaren and David M. Csinos. Expect to be engaged and encouraged as we look at the Bible through an Anabaptist, Jesus-centered lens. For more about Bryan Moyer-Suderman's ministry, check out [www.ambse.org/churchleadershipcenter/Reading-The-Bible-With-Jesus.cfm](http://www.ambse.org/churchleadershipcenter/Reading-The-Bible-With-Jesus.cfm) and [www.smalltallministries.com](http://www.smalltallministries.com). For questions about the seminar or concert, email [rpcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:rpcoffice@gmail.com).

*The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome: a tsunami boat comes home*

A Book Review by Barb Shenk

*The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome: a tsunami boat comes home*, is the heartwarming story of students living on opposite coasts of the Pacific brought together by a barnacled boat. The boat Kamome, which had been tossed out to sea from the Japanese village of Rikuzentakata in the tsunami of 2011, washes up on the shores of the American village of Crescent City two years later. When high school students in Crescent City decide to restore and return the boat to its owners, the students from the two villages form a bond and make the pledge, "Let's be friends forever."

*Note:* One of the authors, Amya Miller, is well connected in our congregation as a niece to Kathy Martin, cousin to Angela Williams, and childhood friend to Barb Shenk.





## Poems from FMC 2016 Fall Retreat at Menno Haven

### Zipline (A Menno Haven memory)

*(This is a Pantoum, a Malaysian poetry form with lines from previous stanzas repeated among new lines)*

My legs dangle over the wooden boards of the deck  
Pounding heart, shaking hands, quaking voice  
The crowd of would-be zipliners waits silently below  
Jennifer's voice tells me *no hurry, no problem*

Pounding heart, shaking hands, quaking voice  
In my head I repeat the mantra, *I'm safe, just go*  
Jennifer's voice tells me, *no hurry, no problem*  
She sounds like she really means it

In my head, I repeat the mantra, *I'm safe, just go*  
I see the ropes and carabiner clips securely fastened  
I believe she really means it  
I know that I will eventually slip off the platform

My legs dangle over the boards of the deck  
And the pace of my heartbeat quickens  
I eventually slip off the platform  
The crowd of would-be zipliners cheers raucously below

### Freetime on the Lawn at Menno Haven

(A Haiku)

Relaxed chatter sails  
On a Frisbee tossed by friends  
Hands clasp, connecting





# 2016 FMC Retreat in Pictures

Look on our FMC Facebook page for more pictures from the retreat

