

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

April—May 2010/4:2



NEW LIFE, NEW ENERGY — NEW MEMBERS AT BCMC

New life and energy appears everywhere. White, pink, and yellow blooms appear on the trees, along with tiny new leaves, spelling new energy outdoors, along with the forsythia, tulips, and daffodils marching merrily before us. It is exciting to see this same energy translated within the doors and throughout BCMC, as new members of all ages join in our fellowship, bringing new talents and ideas within our midst. ~ Karen Penner

It is always a joy to receive new members into our congregation. During this church year (fall and spring) we have received 20 persons into our membership. Received last fall were Nancy Hilty, Ben Lichti, Jill Robb, Jeanette and Stephen Stucky, Vel Teichroew and Lenore Waltner. Renee Wiens Evangelista requested to have her membership at BCMC re-instated. This spring, on March 28 we received Dennis and Kathryn Campbell, Horton and Elsie Flaming, Joel and Crystal

Gaeddert, Larry and Margaret Goering, Marlin and Monica Lichti, Lee and Di Rempel Suderman. Out of this has also come a new adult Sunday School Class who go by the name of “Open Circle.”

These persons represent a diversity of ages, backgrounds, vocations, and life experiences, all of which add to the richness of our life together. Since 1971 our welcoming rite of reception has included a short introduction of each new member by a sponsor who serves as a connecting link in this transition. This was an idea learned from Charleswood Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, at one time our partner congregation across US and Canadian lines.

The Deacon Commission of our congregation has as one of its responsibilities to be the group for processing of membership issues. It is our custom to review the “faith statement” of each person before recommending for mem-

bership. In recent years the Deacons have also hosted a meal as a form of welcoming new members and their sponsors.

As a part of the orientation to Bethel College Mennonite Church, prospective members are asked to take part in a series of classes led by our pastors. Sessions include topics such as our church’s history, our present organization, and opportunities for involvement through gift discernment. Recently these classes have been held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings!

The rite of reception asks of new members three questions: The first has to do with faith in Jesus

Christ as Lord and Savior; the second is a commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus in love and service; and the third asks of their willingness to support the church and to take their place within it. Indirectly these questions are being asked of all persons in attendance as a renewal of our commitment along with that of new members.

I once received a phone call from a person who didn’t believe in church membership – why can’t we all just be nice Christians who may or may not show up occasionally? My answer was and is that church membership has value in: 1. Framing and forming our identity with a particular body of God’s people. 2. Calling us to accountability and responsibility within the fellowship of believers. 3. Increasing our sense of loyalty and commitment to faithful participation in the life of the church.

We welcome the new life, new energy, new vision, and new faith that these new members bring to Bethel College Mennonite Church.
~ John Esau, Deacon Commission

John Esau

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Membership class was 8 to 9 a.m. Sunday mornings, February 21-March 28. Various members of the Deacon Commission attended some sessions. Sponsors of the new members were also invited to attend. Here Di Rempel Suderman's sponsor, Dotty Janzen, reflects on something with new member Di.

New members Larry Goering, Monica Lichti and Marlin Lichti listen intently in Membership Class. At 8 a.m. Sunday morning no less! On the last two Sundays of membership class, new members shared their faith stories.



After the new members are accepted into the congregation during the Sunday morning service a new member luncheon is served by members of the Deacon Commission. At the front table are Joel and Crystal Gaeddert and their sponsor (who is Joel's grandmother), Norma Preheim.

At the table in the back are (around table clockwise) Dotty Janzen (back to camera), Di Rempel Suderman, Lee Suderman, Harold and Esther Thieszen and Marvin Holck.

NEW LIFE, NEW ENERGY — A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Open Circle is the newest Sunday School option at BCMC. The sessions begin with reflections of and responses to the worship service. During the season of Lent, "Learning Forgiveness: A Lenten Study" was used. Of importance during each session are prayer, discussion of issues of faith, and the use of Scripture. Articles from *The Mennonite*, *The Mennonite Weekly Review*, and other periodicals are used in discussion. Both laughter and seriousness are exhibited by attendees, which number from about 8 regularly to up to 12. A goal for each Sunday is to invite guests at the service to attend. Leaders of the sessions are Jeanette and Steve Stucky and Carol and Ron Peters. Check the Sunday School bulletin board for updates.

~ Jeanette Stucky and Carol Peters

ELLEN AWE'S YEAR OF MENNONITE COOKING

Ellen Awe's blog, "A Year of Mennonite Cooking" is so much more than a group of Mennonite recipes, it is a peek into the heart and soul of a Mennonite woman who cherishes her heritage, her family, as well as today's world in which she lives.

Here is the link to her blog: <http://ayearofmennonitecooking.blogspot.com/> Be sure and visit this inspirational, well-written site.

Back in December, inspired by the movie *Julie and Julia*, Ellen uncovered her Grandma Yutzy's cookbook, and started her blog based on the *Mennonite Community Cookbook, Favorite Family Recipes*, by Mary Emma Showalter. When opening up the pages of the fragile, well-used cookbook, filled with handwritten notes, clippings, and smudges of peanut butter and broth, she could feel her Grandma Ida Yutzy's love and smell the fragrant, delicious food being prepared in her kitchen. Ellen vowed to venture into her own year of trying her grandmother's recipes, and sharing her experiences.

The blog is a fascinating combination of family memories, quotes from others, observations, and recipes. Ellen says that cooking from Grandma's cookbook is to get in touch with Grandma's wisdom, and "who" she was. When Ellen was baking zwieback for her daughter's basketball team, the Lady Railers, she was reminded of her college days at Tabor College in Hillsboro, where she learned in a hands-on class how to make zwieback from a community member/teacher, Katie Warkentin.

When preparing granola recently, a fascinating memory of "healthy living" was triggered of when she would visit her traditional Mennonite Grandma Yutzy in Plain City, Ohio. Ellen usually slept on the couch in the living room near the black and white television. Her Grandma would wake her *early* to begin the day working out with Jack LaLanne, stretching, counting, and lifting bells! It is one of the few memories Ellen has of her Grandma doing something other than domestic chores. And it taught Ellen that exercise was an important part of a balanced life.

Ellen was born in Pennsylvania to Gene and Mary (Yutzy) Herr, and grew up in Indiana. Her father is a retired minister and her mother was a teacher. Ellen followed in her mother's footsteps, and is an educator at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Wichita, serving as a Special Needs Coordinator. Ellen appreciates that part of her heritage of people who "loved to learn."

Ellen is married to Darryl Awe. They both volunteer at the Homeless Shelter, and Ellen is the BCMC liaison to the shelter. Additionally, Ellen teaches Sunday School in Kindergarten – Grade 1 and 2 with Barb Voran. She has three daughters, Emily, a graduate of Tabor College, Amber, a senior at John Brown University, and Avery, a junior at Newton High.

On a recent trip to Washington D.C., Ellen ran across this quote in the American Indian Museum: "Food has always been a hello, it's been a goodbye, and it's been part of the celebration." (By Louise McKay). Ellen adds to this, "Food is a significant part of culture . . . and is an embracing way of saying, *"come in and stay."* Happy blogging, Ellen! ~ *Karen Penner*



WITH OUR MEMBERS

New Members

- Dennis and Kathryn Campbell—by letter of transfer from St. Paul Lutheran Church and United Methodist Church, Clay Center, KS
- Horton and Elsie Flaming—by letter of transfer from First United Methodist Church, Augusta, KS
- Joel and Crystal Gaeddert—by letter of transfer from Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS and First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS
- Larry and Margaret Goering—by letter of transfer from First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS
- Marlin and Monica Lichti—by letter of transfer from Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS
- Leland and Dilores Rempel Suderman—by letter of transfer from Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS

With Our Members — continued

Births

Charleston Harold Saxl born Feb. 16, 2010, to Carrie (Graber) and Christopher Saxl, Napa, California

Weddings

Sandee Buller and Michael Astrachan
March 6, 2010 in Kansas City

60th
Wedding
Anniversary



Congratulations
Lawrence and Elda
Yoder

HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY ROBERT LOEFFLER!



Robert Warren Loeffler has the distinction of being named after three grandfathers. He was born April 23, 1998, at Newton Medical Center, joining brother Christian and sister Erin and parents Carmen (Goering) and Kevin Loeffler. He has lived his whole life at their family's home on Minnesota Avenue in North Newton, but has also travelled to Texas and California, to China to visit relatives living there when he was two years old, and to Hawaii last year. Robert attended Hesston Childcare Center in preschool, Northridge Elementary School, and now is a 6th grader at Sante Fe Middle School. Next year he will be in the first 7th grade class to attend the new center at Chisholm Middle School. Robert enjoys PE activities, especially wiffleball and running. He plays saxophone in band, and has written a book (a story about zombies) in Writing Club. Here at BCMC, Robert has participated in Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Menno Ringers and Venture Club. He looks forward to attending Camp Mennoscah for the 4th

time this summer. Robert likes playing with neighborhood friends, and eating mulberries off the trees in his back yard. Robert's calico cat, Patches, gets along with other family pets: Sophie and Shep (German Shepherd dogs) and Chocolate and Bala (cats). Robert is one of several extended family members who have birthdays in March and April, so they'll get together for a family celebration. Congratulations on turning 12, Robert! ~

Heidi Regier Kreider

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MARVIN ESAU!



Marvin Esau was born May 21, 1930, the second of four sons born to Otto and Emilie (Harms) Esau. Marvin is the oldest life-long citizen of Walton, never having moved more than six blocks. Marvin was baptized as an infant in the Zion Lutheran Church and confirmed there on June 6, 1943. Marvin's father, Otto, was a hard-working dairy farmer at their family homestead about a mile west of Walton. Otto was also a talented carpenter and he passed on these skills to Marvin. After Marvin graduated from high school he married Gladys Woelk, also of Walton (The wedding was November 6, 1949 at Walton Mennonite Church). He worked one year on a dairy farm and then he spent the next 47 years running the co-op elevator in Walton. After many years of successful operations, including managing and building nine other co-cop branches, Marvin retired from the elevator business in 1997. While run-

ning the Walton elevator, Marvin did carpentry work which included remodeling the Walton State Bank as well as many homes in Walton. Marvin was also a member of the Walton City Council and he founded the Walton Fire District #1. He served as the assistant fire chief for many years as well as the chief. He retired from being fire chief in 2008, after 52 years of service. Even while in retirement, Marvin continues to serve his community by working at the Walton State Bank a couple hours every day. He is also on the Fire Board and chairman of the Bank Board. He also enjoys spending time with his four children (Donna, Dwaine, Linda and John) and their families, which includes eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Recently, his family came together to celebrate Marvin and Gladys' 65th wedding anniversary. Gladys currently lives at Asbury Park. Happy birthday Marvin! May you have good health in the coming year, time to work in your wood shop and may your family experience blessings in the year ahead. May God continually bless the work of your strong and caring hands!

~ *Ruth R. Harder*

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Chinese New Year is a centuries old tradition based on the lunisolar Chinese calendar. It is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. This year, the Venture Club along with the Jr. High and Sr. High Youth celebrated the Chinese New Year during a joint celebration on Wednesday, February 17th. The event was a good opportunity to learn a little about the culture of several families in our church.

We met at the Agape Center to participate in group activities based on the year we were born and the animal that corresponded with our birth year on the Chinese Zodiac. We also enjoyed getting a taste of Wonton soup, made by Lynn Tran's mother, Lan Tran. She also gave each of us a red envelope (red is the color of good luck) with a Happy New Year message in it.



And finally, before we left, we received fortune cookies and Chinese Zodiac placemats from Serena and Jason Wong's parents, Guy and Amy Wong. It was an interesting and fun evening of experiencing the events of a different culture. ~Austin Prouty



EASTER EGG HUNT AT BCMC — PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2010

All lined up and ready to go



It was a beautiful sunny (although a little cool, but not too cool) Palm Sunday in North Newton.

Pictures courtesy of Ken Lamp
Easter eggs courtesy of the Mosaic Sunday school class at BCMC

And they're off!



Now the bigger kids get a chance at finding some eggs



OBITUARIES



Malinda R. (Lingenfelder) Regier Brown—June 15, 1917 – March 7, 2010

Malinda Rose Lingenfelder Regier Brown, affectionately called Linda or Nana, was born June 15, 1917 in Hanston, Kansas. She grew up on a farm, and drove a horse and buggy to school with her younger sister, Berniece. Linda loved art even as a young child and she created and fostered that love in her children and others. She began her art career as a teenager, assisting in her Uncle John Lingenfelder's photography studio, providing the tinted color on portraits. Linda graduated from Bethel College with a teaching certificate and began her teaching career in a one room schoolhouse in Macksville, KS. She and Max Regier met during college and were married in 1941. In the following years they lived in Newton and Linda's time was spent lovingly raising 7 children and volunteering in their activities. She was a Brownie, Girl Scout, and Cub Scout leader and served 2 terms as McKinley School PTA President. The Regier home was always decorated with Linda's art and artistic touch, the smell of cookies in the oven, a menagerie of animals, and a gang of neighborhood kids. In later years the family moved to Wichita and Linda worked during those years in retail clothing and jewelry stores. She volunteered at the Wichita Art Museum and in a program in Wichita teaching art and creating sculpture in the schools. In later years, back in Newton Linda volunteered with the Newton Art Association and The Carriage Factory Gallery and was a long-standing member of the Junior Themian Club. She served Bethel College Mennonite Church in various capacities such as Co-Chair of the Circle One of the Women's Fellowship groups, Co-Chair of the Funeral Serving Committee, and hostess in her home for group of church members for meals. Linda was chosen as a 2003 Woman of the Year in the church and religion category. Following Max's death, Linda remarried Lelus Brown and welcomed more children and grandchildren into the family.



Stella (Enns) Wiebe—March 30, 1915-March 9, 2010

Stella Wiebe, 94, died Tuesday, March 9, at Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton. She was born on March 30, 1915 in Aberdeen, Idaho, to Abe and Marie (Sukau) Enns, the first of two girls. Stella married Walter Wiebe in 1935. They had three children: Sharon (Wayne) Stucky of North Newton, Paul (Eleanor) Wiebe of Fort Collins, CO and Miriam (Gary) Crehan of Kent, WA. She leaves behind six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She also is survived by her sister, Elva (Ronnie) Funk of Pocatello, ID. Stella lived the first 75 years of her life in Aberdeen, where she and her husband ran a grocery store and later, a clothing establishment. After Walt's death in 1974, she retired to a life of gardening and taking care of her mother, who died in 1988 at the age of 95. In 1990, she sold the family home and moved into Kidron Bethel. She was a member of First Mennonite Church in Aberdeen, Idaho until May of 1991 when she joined Bethel College Mennonite Church. Memorial service will be in June, in Aberdeen.

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW BCMC PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!

We will be taking pictures **April 28, 29, 30 and May 1.**

Now is the time to think about:

- ✓ Getting snapshots to the church office of any family members who are not able to be here for the portrait sessions. This especially applies to those of you who live far away or cannot get to the church to take a picture. Send us a snapshot to include in the 2010 directory.
- ✓ Making sure the church has correct address information for you and your family members.

Sunday school classes, clubs, auxiliaries, small groups, whatever: Check and see if you have good color photographs of your involvement in activities or projects. These could be included in the church activity pages of the new directory. You can bring these photos to the church office. If you have questions, call Monica Lichti at the church office, 316-283-3667.

GROWING IN GOD'S GOOD EARTH—SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Have you always been interested in gardening but felt like you didn't have space or knowledge or courage enough to venture into planting your own? Do you find yourself looking longingly at your neighbor's flowers and wishing you could snip a few and express yourself creatively by arranging them in a vase? Do you feel a connection to God when you are out in the sunshine surrounded by the poetry of nature? Or are you an expert in this field with the desire to share this knowledge with others? Then we have a suggestion for you! Plans are underway for a summer Sunday school entitled "Growing in God's Good Earth" which will run for 10 weeks from June 13-August 15. We will explore many aspects of growing plants, using what we grow, and enjoying the beauty of it all during our times together. This will be an intergenerational group so EVERYONE can participate!

The group will start each Sunday in Fellowship Hall with songs and words of inspiration. This will be followed by activities which may include planting and harvesting in the Sand Creek Community plot reserved for this purpose, creating art projects using a variety of objects from nature, tempting our senses with culinary explorations, and learning about composting, watering, and mulching in our gardens. We will end again as a group with reflections of the day's activities. As you can see, there will be a casual atmosphere to this project and you may even get a bit dirty from time to time. There is no doubt, though, that a good time will be had by all! Further details can be found in upcoming bulletins. ~ *Jeanette Leary, Education Coordinator*

PASTOR'S CORNER— HEIDI REGIER KREIDER

At Easter we celebrate the resurrection, God's gift of new life arising out of suffering and death. But the paradoxes of death and life are with us year-round. As the apostle Paul writes "...we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies." (2 Corinthians 4:7,10) In pastoral ministry I interact frequently with people coping with terminal illness, preparing for death, actively dying, planning funeral services, or grieving the death of a loved one. My own family is also on this journey with my father who is receiving hospice care for terminal cancer. In the midst of this, I am grateful for the healthy approach to death and dying that I observe here at BCMC. Aspects of this include:

- Willingness to talk about death, and to express a range of responses: Uncertainty and confidence, doubt and hope, struggle and blessing, theological questions and affirmations of faith.
- Demonstrations of love and compassion to those who are facing death or grieving, and practical assistance at memorial services and funeral meals.
- Use of funeral pre-planning forms to record plans and preferences for end-of-life arrangements, encouraging families to talk about plans in advance, and enabling pastoral staff to assist more effectively at the time of death (forms are available in the church office, where they are filed and may be revised at any time).
- Engagement of hospice services to provide comfort care for one who is dying, and practical assistance, education, and bereavement support to families.
- Use of the BCMC Columbarium, where we may place the ashes of those who have died and embrace their names and memory within the ongoing life of the church.

These practices do not remove the profound loss and pain of death, but they do allow us to confront our fears and struggles in the context of faith and a caring community. Death is a part of life. And out of death, God brings about new life. As we embrace these paradoxes, may the life of Jesus be made "visible in our bodies," and in the church body.

APRIL — MAY 2010

Worship schedule *(Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates)* Worship 9:30 am — Fellowship time 10:30 am—Christian education 10:50 am

April

- 4** **Easter Sunday — Prelude at 9:30 a.m.; Worship at 10:00 a.m.** with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells, Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble and timpani
No Sunday school today
- 11** Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Senior High Youth Ensemble;
Child dedication
6:30 p.m. Catechism Class Supper in Fellowship Hall with Deacon Commission
- 18** **Creation Care Sunday** — Worship with sermon by Nathan Koontz; music by Chancel Choir
Sunday school elective—National Religious Campaign Against Torture video “Ending U.S.-Sponsored Torture Forever”—location to be announced
- 25** Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Junior Choir and Youth Bells;
Baptism and Communion
12:00 noon Potluck in Fellowship Hall
12:45 p.m. Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary

May

- 2** Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells
10:30 a.m. Sunday school teacher recognition in Fellowship Hall
Sunday school elective—National Religious Campaign Against Torture video “Ending U.S.-Sponsored Torture Forever”—location to be announced
- 9** Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Menno Ringers
Senior high school graduate recognition
- 16** Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Chancel Choir
- 23** **Bethel College Baccalaureate, worship starts at 10:30 a.m.— No Sunday school**
- 30** Worship with sermon by a guest speaker; music by Chancel Bells

Bethel College Mennonite Church

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Return service requested