

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

August-September 2007/1:4



August-September

Sunday worship schedule

(Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates.)

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship time 10:30 a.m.

Christian education 10:50 a.m.

August

5 Bring food for Salvation Army. Regular Sunday school classes for senior high youth and adults resume. Evening young adult event at Granite City (east) in Wichita. Call church office for details.

12 The Possum Boys present their farewell concert at 7:00 p.m. in BCMC sanctuary; a benefit for Western District Conference's Vision 2012.

19 Christian Education Sunday. Third graders will receive Bibles. Morning worship will include a releasing and recognition for associate pastor Roger Juhnke. Regular Sunday school classes for children resume. Noon potluck and program honoring Roger; bring food to share and your table service.

20 New associate pastor Ruth Harder begins at BCMC.

September

2 Bring food for Salvation Army. Morning worship will include installation service for Ruth Harder. Annual dessert reception for Bethel College students on the church lawn, 7:00 p.m. Bring ice cream toppings and/or a dessert.

16 Golden Agers noon potluck in Fellowship Hall.

23 Newton area CROP Walk, 2:00 p.m.

30 Noon congregational potluck. Attenders are encouraged to bring food from their own gardens and/or local sources. Congregational meeting, 12:45 p.m.

Bethel College Mennonite Church
PO Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Return service requested

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Roger Juhnke: Tributes

Roger Juhnke concludes his term as Associate Pastor at BCMC on Aug. 31. On Aug. 19 our worship service will include a ritual of release and blessing for Roger, and at a noon potluck and program we will recognize Roger's service to the congregation. He was a senior high youth sponsor from 1998-2001 and served on the Youth Commission from 2001 to 2003. Roger was interim youth worker for a year, and from August 2004 until the present has served as associate pastor with responsibility for the youth program. These tributes are an expression of gratitude for Roger's service among us. Share your own special memories and words of thanks with him!

What comes to mind when I think of Roger Juhnke? Well, for starters, his membership in the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association and the accompanying virtue of frugality (is it really genetic?); his hearty appetite, particularly for that signature dish he mysteriously calls "The Program" (involving macaroni, lima beans and Catalina dressing); enjoying biscuits and gravy from Curtis C's Diner served by Roger at staff breakfast meetings; assuring Roger that "I feel your pain" as he strove mightily to be patient while reconfirming San Jose travel and lodging arrangements for the umpteenth time....

As staff members, we have enjoyed Roger's dry and witty sense of humor; he is not afraid to laugh at himself and always ready to laugh with others. His penchant for story-telling often left us incredulous at his remarkable life adventures. His commitment to Christ and the Anabaptist faith has been an inspiration to us, and his compassion and care for people reveal a deep integrity. All along the way, Roger has graciously adapted to changing roles, staff transitions and new assignments here at BCMC.

Moreover, he has patiently put up with the women in the church office...and beyond. The real proof came the day he found himself on the other end of the phone with a woman needing assistance from our benevolent Caring Fund, wondering in particular how to acquire certain feminine hygiene products. The rest of us were absolutely no help to Roger, as we were all stifling laughter in the background while he bravely and professionally (though somewhat bewilderedly) handled the call.

One of my favorite experiences with Roger was on a Western District Conference Historical Committee tour he led to El Reno, Okla. There I observed Roger as he skillfully guided our group to the Canadian County Historical Society museum and Mennoville Mennonite Church, on a trolley ride to lunch, and to the site of the Mennonite mission school at Darlington where there is now a goat meat operation ("Yes, goat meat! Trust me," wrote Roger in the tour itinerary).

Roger, you have indeed been trustworthy and have made tremendous contributions to our congregation and to God's work in this place. We will miss you on the church staff and wish you rich blessings on the next steps of your journey—here at BCMC and wherever God leads you. — Heidi Regier Kreider



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Editorial committee: Esther Groves, Dale Horst, Karen Penner

Tributes, continued

I have gotten to know Roger quite well through the senior high youth group, and I have learned many things about him. He has taught me what it means to be a follower of Christ and has always motivated me to do my best at anything. His stories amused us and also taught us a great deal about the “real world.” One thing I have learned is that Roger is best known for his ability to supervise. He is always the first one to put down his shovel and make sure everyone is working as efficiently as they can at the job he just quit. Even though his best days of physical conditioning may be over, I’m sure he’d make a great foreman somewhere. – *Nick Jackson*

To me Roger has been an older friend who I could confide my problems and ambitions to. He always goes the extra mile in helping others and preparing most of our youth Sundays. He tells ridiculous jokes on occasion and is always fun to be around. I and the others will miss Roger and the special bond that all of us shared with him. Thanks to Roger for making all of our youth trips a success and bringing us closer together as friends. – *Will Lewis*

Since I’ve had Roger Juhnke as my youth pastor for four years, you might think I know him pretty well, but I am always learning new things about him. More times than not I can recall coming out of a Sunday school lesson with a new understanding of who Roger is. He often told us stories of his “glory days” as a rower at Oxford University, or that one time he owned six Harley Davidsons at once. Or perhaps he’d discuss his past business adventures: being a millionaire once or twice, or being held at gunpoint by a former employee. The point is that Roger Juhnke has done a lot in his life. And while to some being a youth pastor might seem uneventful compared to other things he’s done, I hope he will someday tell others about “that one time on a youth group trip”—because I know I will.

Thanks for everything, Roger: The youth group trips to Denver, Chicago and Camp Mennoscah. The San Jose Convention. Planning all the fund raising. And most of all for enlightening our lives every week in Sunday school. – *Alison Schmidt-Tieszen*

12th birthday: E Josef Voth



E Josef was born Sept. 26, 1995, and lives in Newton with his parents, Eugene and LaDonna Voth, his younger sister, Aneka, and his Australian shepherd, Ollie. He will be in 6th grade at Santa Fe Middle School this year and is looking forward to meeting new people, studying history and taking P.E. This summer he played baseball, and this fall he plans to play football with the Newton Warriors. He also enjoys basketball, soccer and ping pong. He has taken piano lessons for the past three years.

At BCMC he has been a member of the Junior Choir, Sunday school and Venture Club. He likes church because “it is a time to talk with God.” A Bible story he appreciates is David and Goliath, and Psalm 23 is a passage he particularly remembers.

E Josef is interested in ancient cultures and medieval society. This summer he is reading books about the Roman Empire, Leonard DaVinci and European castles. He also enjoys building castles and buildings with Legos. He thinks he might want to be an architect someday and has already designed a fortified city, castles and palaces.

E Josef had an original short story titled *Krifan* published in the *Anthology of Short Stories By Young Americans – 2006 Edition*. It’s a fascinating story about him and a friend finding themselves in an imaginary world full of incredible creatures and special challenges. (Well worth reading!)

New young adult choir forming!

Are you a high school youth or below the age of 32? Do you like to have a good time? Are you missing the singing in your life? Then join the Young Adult Choir (YAC) at BCMC. YAC will be directed and coordinated by Chris Shaw and accompanied by Diane Fast. We will sing during morning worship on the fifth Sunday in the month. If you have a fear of commitment, don’t worry, there aren’t very many fifth Sundays in a year; we won’t practice every week. Rehearsals will be determined by the group and what works best for them.

If you are interested in singing in YAC, meet in the back of the sanctuary during fellowship time on Aug. 12. If you can’t be in church Aug. 12 but want to participate in the choir, or if you have questions, contact me at shawcm@hotmail.com, or drop a note in my church box. – *Chris Shaw*

Pastor’s corner

Editor’s note: *John A. Esau, pastor at BCMC 1971-1984, was asked to provide some pastoral back-up this summer when Heidi Regier Kreider and Roger Juhnke were attending conferences or on vacation. Below are his reflections on that experience.*



It has been 22 years since I served as a pastor of this congregation. To return, however briefly, to that role has been a special gift. I have realized again the unique privilege which serving as a pastor truly is.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to go to the office in the mornings, though I confess that retirement routines (the Tuesday-Thursday tennis group and reading the morning newspaper) didn’t get me there very early. It helps to be present for a brief conversation with members to sense the pulse of life within the congregation. Church custodian Grace Regier’s morning glasses of iced tea added to the experience of hearing about the church and being in touch.

I have done hospital visitation and made several visits to members in their homes. Part of the joy of pastoral ministry is the incredible opportunity to share in the lives of members in some of the most vulnerable and important times, plus you learn as few others can the stories of people’s lives.

Over the years I have occasionally participated in a few public roles in worship, but this is the first time in 22 years to preach the sermon at BCMC. I don’t recall that I ever did a sermon series on the parables of Jesus in my years of regular preaching here and in Minneapolis. First of all, I wonder why I missed that, since they are so central to his teaching in the first three gospels. But then again, I have been pushed to think in new ways about the life and ministry of Jesus. It has been a good discipline to study and reflect upon these texts of scripture.

To return to an old role is to experience something of a “time warp,” traveling emotionally and spiritually between two very different worlds. For a few moments it has seemed as though I was back in a very familiar place and time, as though nothing had changed and 22 years had vanished. But reality returns quickly.

One day Bernice was filling in at the secretary’s desk and I was filling in as pastor, the only ones in the office! We were just glad the telephone didn’t ring often that morning, though Bernice did need to respond to a person who wanted to get married that week, evidently to catch 07/07/07! It was reassuring to first have Melanie back in the office, then Roger back from conference and finally Heidi to return from vacation. Thanks for the many expressions of support and encouragement. – *John A. Esau*

Eitzen on (fair and) foul play

Stan Eitzen has written a number of books throughout his career and into retirement, on such topics as social inequality, poverty, homelessness, families, crime and criminal justice, globalization, solutions to social problems and sport.

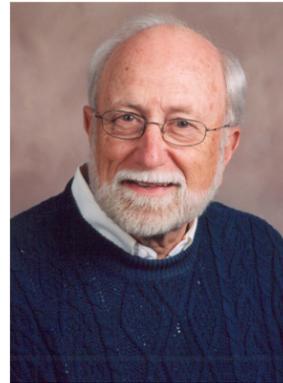
Fair and Foul: Beyond the Myths and Paradoxes of Sport (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006; 3rd edition) illustrates his approach to various social phenomena: (1) demystifying institutions; (2) emphasizing the role of social stratification, focusing on class, race and gender inequality; (3) showing the effects of social structure on human behavior; and (4) illustrating the duality of social life.

Regarding duality, sport is inherently contradictory. On the one hand, sport is appealing. It provides excitement, joy and self-fulfillment for the participants. It gives fans examples of courage, superhuman effort, extraordinary teamwork, selflessness and sacrifice. On the other hand, much about sport is appalling. Some athletes are criminals. Athletes, coaches and owners can be greedy and self-serving. Athletes are sometimes exploited. Incidents of racism, sexism and homophobia abound. Loyalty by owners, coaches and athletes is, for many, an outmoded concept. Sport is play but is often work; it inspires and it disappoints; it is a game and it is a business.

The positives and negatives of sport are explored in *Fair and Foul* by looking at a number of paradoxes: sport unites and sport divides, sport is fair and foul, sport is healthy yet destructive, sport is expressive and controlled, school sport is educational and exploitative, and professional sports franchises are public teams but private businesses. The concluding chapter is entitled: “The Challenge: Changing Sport.”

A copy of *Fair and Foul* is in the BCMC library.

D. Stanley Eitzen (Ph.D., University of Kansas) is professor emeritus of sociology at Colorado State University. He and his wife, Florine, live in North Newton.



Think globally, act locally



Our grocery shelves are bulging with a tremendous variety of foods from far away, including fruit from New Zealand, salmon from China, beef from Argentina and bananas from Central America. But these items have a bigger price tag than we might think. One obvious cost is transportation fuel, whether the food comes from across the country or from outside the United States. Another cost is not knowing what chemicals are used producing the food. What is our responsibility as Christians? The BCMC Creation Care Committee hoped to raise awareness of these issues at a “locally-grown potluck” on June 24.

The nearly 100 participants in the potluck found a delicious assortment of foods fresh from our gardens and other local sources (see photo). Participants were amazed

at the variety of dishes from local sources, and several people strongly recommended that we repeat this event. We decided to do just that! **Mark your calendars for Sept. 30**, when we will have another “local foods” noon congregational potluck (along with the fall congregational meeting).—*Emerson Wiens*

His favorite foods are PB&J and pizza, TV show is *Sports Center*, and video game is “Rome” (where the object is to successfully build a virtual palace given restrictions and changing variables). He is also looking forward to learning to drive, although he is concerned about the impact his doing so will have on the environment. For his birthday he would like to go to a KU football game, get more Legos and eat pizza. Happy birthday, E Josef! —*Roger Juhnke*

Out of Africa

Vanessa Stucky, daughter of Frank and Kathy Stucky, volunteered for Peace Corps, was assigned to Community Aid International (CAI), and serves in the bush of Nyanga Province, Kenya. A condensation of her emails follows:



I mostly work with micro-finance banks in rural villages around Bondo to check accounting, train staff and teach loanees about saving and the obligation to pay their loan. I usually use a translator for KiLuo speech. One bank can be reached in an hour and a half only by hiring a man with a bicycle to take me on the back of it—if roads are passable. Once a man bellowed that one of his wives wants to kill him but isn’t physically capable, so she went to a witch doctor and cursed him. He said the curse prevented him from repaying his loan!

I help the UN World Food Program (WFP) in distributing food to a few orphans in the poorest schools, mostly in remote fishing villages, with over 30% HIV and up to 50% orphans. It’s hard helping only a few of the starving, ill, weak children. Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools, an excellent program combining food, health and education, is underfunded. Selected orphans get extra sessions on agriculture, environment and science, and do field work after school and Saturdays. CAI-WFP delivers food to orphans in this program.

I visited a primary school with people from the UN and World Council of Credit Unions. Some had never been to Africa. When the headmaster said children take turns going to the river for water, an American said, “Oh, then you must have a water filtration system. Can we see it?” The school has cow-dung floors and one pit latrine for 400 children, and no desks, chairs, chalkboards, windows, doors or electricity. How could it have a high-tech water system? A first-grade classroom had over 50 students, one teacher, zero desks, hardly enough room for students to sit on the dung floor. Yet, happy and excited by visitors, the students sang: “If you have no food to eat, and your clothes are tattered and torn, you can always wear a smile... just put on a smile.” Adorable little children singing the most pathetic song.

One week the community center where I live was full of colleagues from Nairobi working on a program to help women fill leadership positions. A wonderful week with them and women from Bondo district filled some loneliness gaps. A widow living in the adjoining mud hut cooked for everyone all week, and I gained about 10 pounds!

It’s unsafe to leave the compound after dusk, so I spend evenings alone with animal and insect sounds. I’ve won the war with rats, though I’m not throwing out my rat poison or large rat trap. I read 27 books in four and a half months. If you have anything you’d like someone to read, send! I’d love news, as I feel so out of the loop. My address is: Community Aid International, Attn: Vanessa Stucky, P.O. Box 366. Bondo, Nyanga Province, Kenya, Africa.

With our members

Births

Margaret Louise Oswald, born May 25 in Newton to Libby Schrag and Clark Oswald.

Weddings at BCMC:

Aaron Linscheid and Caitlin Welch on June 9

Elyse Unruh and Montrell Butcher on June 23

Anne Brubacher and Pablo Ceres on June 30

50-year anniversaries

Harvey and Alison (Deckert) Hiebert, August 17, 1957

Larry and Karen (Suderman) Penner, September 1, 1957

Frank and Emmy (Schmidt) Midkiff, September 21, 1957

60-year anniversaries

Ray and Betty (Weinbrenner) Funk, August 22, 1947

65-year anniversaries

Harold and Lucile (Krehbiel) Jackson, September 5, 1942

New members, joining June 10, 2007

Barry and Brenda Bartel, from Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, Lakewood, Colo.

Carmen Loeffler, from Lorraine Ave. Mennonite Church, Wichita

Ruth Boese, by affirmation of faith

Membership changes

John and Barbara Thiesen have terminated their Wider Fellowship membership.



Harvey and Alison Hiebert



Ray and Betty Funk



Larry and Karen Penner



Frank and Emmy Midkiff

Obituary: Leona Graber Schrag

Leona Caroline Graber Schrag was born on October 11, 1920, to Edward W. and Carrie (Stucky) Graber. She received her elementary and high school education in Pretty Prairie, Kansas. She also attended Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. She married Howard Joseph Schrag on August 18, 1940. She died June 1, 2007. Leona is survived by her husband, Howard; son, Howard Leon and wife, Judy, of Port Orchard, Washington; and grandson Mike and wife, Kelly, of Thousand Oaks, California; and their two sons (Leona's great-grandsons) Zachary, age 4, and Owen, age 1½.

Leona's life with Howard was adventurous, taking them through various voluntary service assignments in Paris, British Columbia, and Arizona, where she worked with people in nursing care. Their travels took them to the Mennonite World Conference in Amsterdam, several European countries

and the Holy Land. A mission tour took them to Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong. They later traveled to Africa and South America.

Leona loved painting and had a passion for health foods. During their many road trips through a number of Thousand Trails camps, she gave seminars and workshops on the benefits of health foods. Leona was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her other passion was the church, where she spent early years making quilts with the Women's Mission Society and many other volunteer efforts.

BCMC goes to San Jose

The BCMC senior high youth group spent an afternoon at the San Jose 2007 MC USA Youth Conference involved in community service. We were assigned to one of the Santa Clara County parks to help with park beautification. On a warm, sunny Friday we weeded hillsides; removed invasive plants from an earthen reservoir dam; and removed dirt, grass and debris from a concrete reservoir spillway. (At right, Le Tran, Erin Loeffler and Rebecca Trumble vigorously wield their hoes.) We served with youth from Shalom Mennonite in Newton, and Marion Mennonite, Shippshewana, Ind. Everyone had a great time working outside and getting to know other youth and the park rangers. – Roger Juhnke



BCMC delegates had a front row view of the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly held July 2-7 in San Jose, California. Delegates were assigned to separate table groups for discussion and dialogue during the eight delegate sessions. Issues included a review of *Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love*, church member profile, joining Christian Churches Together, creation care, church wide financial reports, a six-year review of the new denomination, apologizing for wrongs against Native Americans, the appropriateness of disciplining or expelling congregations by area conferences, understanding the church's "national identity" and more.

As a follow-up to action at Charlotte 2005, delegates voted 700-50 to begin development of a new health-care plan for its pastors and other church workers as one specific of a larger initiative to increase health care access for all. BCMC will need to consider its participation during the next year as the plan is developed in greater detail. Worship services featured a variety of musical styles. Several speakers from outside Mennonite Church USA thanked Anabaptists/Mennonites for their witness but challenged us to be more visible and more vocal.

BCMC delegates to the assembly were Floyd Bartel, Justina Neufeld, Carol Flickinger, Adam Robb, Richard Friesen and Heidi Regier Kreider (alternates: Dotty and Heinz Janzen). Roger Juhnke, Cliff Dick and Marlene Ewert accompanied members of the senior high youth group to attend the Youth Convention. Also attending from BCMC were Vern Preheim, Marlene Faul and Dorothy Nickel Friesen as delegates for Western District Conference, Patty Shelly as a delegate for Mennonite Church USA Executive Board; Dave Linscheid, Dale Schrag, Barry and Brenda Bartel and Aaron Linscheid (with Open Road singing group) from Bethel College; Nat Dick and Mark Kreider at Junior High convention; David Kreider, installing the MC-USA Historical Committee exhibit; Cynthia Linscheid with Mennonite Publishing Network, and Judy Friesen coordinating care for infants and toddlers.

Additional information about the San Jose Assembly is available in church periodicals and at www.sanjose2007.org and www.themennonite.org.