

February–March

Sunday worship schedule

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship time 10:30 a.m.

Christian education 10:50 a.m.

February

- 4 Youth Sunday, with music by Junior Choir
- 11 Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Cherub and Chancel choirs
- 18 Bethel College Sunday: sermon by president Barry Bartel; music by Bethel College students
- 25 First Sunday in Lent, with Communion served. Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells

March

- 4 Sermon by Norma Johnson; music by Chancel Choir
- 11 Sermon by Peter Graber of Mennonite Mission Network; music by Junior Choir and Youth Bells
- 18 Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir
- 25 Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells

Coming events

February

- 4 Bring food for Salvation Army
- 11 Golden Agers noon potluck (replaces January potluck) in Fellowship Hall
- 14 Wednesday night suppers begin. Church fun night!
- 18 Fellowship and Friends noon potluck in Fellowship Hall
- 21 Ash Wednesday service, 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary
- 24 CPR training, 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (advance registration needed)

March

- 4 Bring food for Salvation Army
- 18 Golden Agers noon potluck in Fellowship Hall
- 25 Noon potluck and farewell program for associate pastor Norma Johnson in Fellowship Hall
- 25 Bethel College Choir home concert, 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall

Bethel College Mennonite Church

PO Box 364

North Newton, KS 67117

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Return service requested

BCMC Kaleidoscope

February–March 2007 / 1:1

Bethel College Mennonite Church

What's in a name?

A rose by any other name is still a rose, but usually we expect a name to reflect something about the object that is being named. Thus the editorial team for the renewed church newsletter felt that a new name for the newsletter is appropriate and should denote something about the purpose and function of the newsletter.

We asked the congregation and some Sunday school classes for suggestions. Several were submitted, and we thank everyone for their ideas. Esther Groves also prepared a list of words that might be associated with a church newsletter. In the middle of the list was the word “kaleidoscope.” This seemed to jump out and grab our attention.

The dictionary includes three definitions for kaleidoscope. The first is the tube with mirrors and pretty bits of glass that reveal beautiful images when held up to the light, second is a series of changing colors or scenes, and third is a series of changing phases or events.

These ideas express the editors' vision for the purpose and function of the newsletter. As our congregation grows and evolves, the newsletter will provide a forum for describing what is new and/or different in our congregation. Second, the membership of our congregation is diverse and the editors wish the newsletter to highlight this diversity by sharing members' accomplishments and activities. Reading the *BCMC Kaleidoscope* will keep us abreast of what is going on in our church and allow us to better appreciate the beauty of the lives that make up our congregation.

In order to accomplish these goals the editorial team will need your help. We look to each of you to let us know when you or your friends are involved in activities of special interest, what your Sunday school class or other church group is up to, or anything else you may wish to see in the newsletter.

Please submit your ideas or articles to one of the newsletter editorial team: Esther Groves, Karen Penner or Dale Horst. Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you. – Dale Horst

Norma Johnson: A life of service

Driving a pickup across the Kalahari Desert to remote villages in Botswana,



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Editorial committee: Esther Groves, Dale Horst, Karen Penner

Africa, Norma Johnson carried a two-burner propane stove for camping. She gave in-service training to untrained primary schoolteachers and slept at the local school. Her base home had no electricity but had running water, plumbing, a small gas refrigerator, and propane lamps. Earlier she trained Kenyans to teach elementary grades—nine years in all in Mennonite Central Committee’s Teacher Abroad Program (TAP).

At Akron, Pa., Norma directed personnel development and volunteered for Akron Mennonite Church’s pastoral ministry team. That experience led her to seminary, first in Lancaster, Pa., then at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind. She graduated in 1987 with a Master of Divinity degree with focus on pastoral ministry. Chosen as executive secretary of the General Conference Commission on Education, Norma moved to Kansas. In 1988 she was licensed for ministry, in 1990 ordained as a minister. She completed almost a decade with COE in 1997 while worshipping at Bethel College Mennonite Church. She was installed as associate pastor of BCMC in 1997, and in 1998 she and Vern Preheim were married.

Norma grew up Mennonite, the oldest of five, at Casselton, N.D., and wanted to be a teacher. She graduated from Hesston and Goshen colleges, taught at Fargo, N.D., attended summer schools and earned a master’s degree in elementary education. Close to 40 years later, Norma will retire in March after a decade of much-appreciated service at BCMC. She and Vern will continue as BCMC members. “I will be your friend; I just won’t be your pastor.” *Esther Bohn Groves*

Norma’s highlights of 10 years as associate pastor of BCMC

March 1, 1997 – March 31, 2007

1. Being in team ministry with:
 - Lead pastors – Darrell Fast, Heidi Regier Kreider
 - Associate pastors – Steven Yoder, Roger Juhnke
 - Interim – Donald Steelberg
 - Administrative assistants – Marlene Faul, Cheryl Ainsworth, Melanie Mueller
 - Musicians – Marles and Norma Preheim, Dorothy Stucky Harder, Diane Fast, Vada Snider, Eleanor Kaufman, Chris Shaw, Shirley King, Connie Esau
 - Custodian – Grace Regier
2. Planning and leading worship
3. Commission and committee work: Education, Worship, Peace & Justice, Stewardship, Trustees, Fellowship
4. Visiting in hospitals, retirement communities and homes
5. Vacation Bible School – each summer 1997 to 2006
6. Team-teaching the Junior Youth Sunday school class
7. Staff breakfast meetings: excellent food, fellowship and creative work
8. Introducing *Gather 'Round* – new Sunday school curriculum
9. Privilege of sabbatical time: Sept.-Nov. 2001 and Jan.-Mar. 2006
10. Winter scene snapshot of BCMC used for Christmas cards and note cards as fund-raiser for senior high youth.

80th birthday: Maurine Hean

Maurine was born February 22, 1927, in Newton, the first of three children of Jacob and Anna Siemens. She grew up as one of the “campus kids” at Bethel



College and was baptized in 1941 as a third generation member of Bethel College Mennonite Church, following her parents and her grandparents P.W. and Elizabeth Buhler Enns (who lived on a dairy farm on west 24th Street). Maurine attended Cooper School and Newton High School before graduating from Bethel Academy. She went on to study home economics at Bethel College, where she met James Hean. They were married in 1950, and through their life together lived in Michigan, Kansas, Minnesota and Maryland. During these years Maurine and James welcomed four children including twin boys—the

“Minnesota Twins”! In addition to the responsibilities of motherhood, **Mission Quilters go**

Hawaiian

The BCMC Mission Quilters are busy throughout the year. Currently they are working on an unusual “Hawaiian” quilt, with a green appliquéd top (appliqué work by Louise Thieszen and Deane Frey). The quilt pattern, “Bracken Fern,” is by Hawaiian quilt designer Debra Kakalia, and was donated by Jan Hoffman of Denver. The star cut-out in the center is Kakalia’s trademark. This quilt will be auctioned at the Mennonite Central Committee Kansas Relief Sale April 13-14 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Plan to attend the sale, eat plenty of verenike and New Year’s cookies, and get your auction number so you can take this beautiful quilt home!



Pastor’s corner



In the book *Ping: A frog in search of a new pond* by Stuart Avery Gold, Ping is forced into a risky adventure when his pond dries up and he must hop into the unknown to search out a new pond. Along the way, wise Owl becomes his mentor, and advises him: “Never count on the future, nor your ability to control it... To possess the power of true strength is to possess the ability to yield, to change course if need be.”

A recent winter snow storm led us to change course and reluctantly cancel a full Sunday of activities on Jan. 21: Our annual hymn sing and Mennonite World Conference fellowship day worship, Sunday school classes, the youth group soup luncheon fund-raiser for their trip to the Mennonite Church USA convention, and an important congregational meeting. Upon hearing the news, one person cheerfully told me, “Enjoy the day off!” To the contrary, I found the experience unsettling and exhausting, marked by difficult decisions, numerous phone calls, rescheduling details and lingering questions about whether we handled the situation correctly.

How much greater are the challenges that many members of our congregation have faced in recent months as they cope with the unexpected: The death of a loved one, an auto accident, injury from falling on the ice, complications from surgery, cancer or a stroke. Such unforeseen experiences force us to suddenly adapt to circumstances beyond our control; we feel disoriented and helpless, keenly aware of our losses and struggling to envision

You’re invited to Norma’s retirement party!

You are invited to a noon potluck and short program honoring Norma Johnson on Sunday, March 25. Thank-you notes, memories and anecdotes about Norma’s

any good coming out of the situation. Indeed, we should never take the future for granted or presume to control it.

James 4:13-15 says, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.' Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.' Proverbs 27:1 summarizes it well: "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."

This does not mean that we should abandon our goals and vision for the future, or resign ourselves to fate. Rather it suggests that we should face the future with humility, flexibility and gratitude, yielding ourselves and our plans to God who is with us regardless of what the future brings. *Heidi Regier Kreider* Maurine worked in food service, did substitute teaching and volunteered in church and community activities.

Following retirement in 1991 Maurine and James moved back to Kansas. Maurine enjoyed reconnecting with her roots in Newton and at BCMC, but had to adjust to life as a single person after James' death in 1996. A bout with West Nile Virus, encephalitis and depression has brought challenges to Maurine during recent years, but now she feels ready to get back to more volunteer work and other activities. She has served on the Visitation Team at BCMC, and enjoys reading, crocheting and traveling to see her six grandchildren and their families.

Psalms 23 is a favorite scripture for Maurine, including the musical setting harmonized by J. Harold Moyer, "My Shepherd will supply my need" (*Hymnal: A Worship Book* 589). We give thanks for God's care for Maurine over these past 80 years and pray that goodness and mercy will follow her all the days of her life. *Heidi Regier Kreider*

80th birthday: Walter Jost



Dan and Bena (Goertz) Jost welcomed son Walter to their farm family on February 11, 1927. He joined a three-year old sister, Esther (Jost) Bartel. They lived near Hillsboro and were members of the Johannestal Mennonite Church.

After attending a country grade school, Walt went to Hillsboro High School. He drove a Model A in the carpool with neighbors. Singing in the glee club, playing clarinet in band and orchestra, and accompanying singing groups were important high school activities. Ann Wiebe Miller, a music teacher, was influential in Walt's choice to major in music at Bethel College, where he graduated in 1949.

His teaching career began in 1950 at Freeman (S.D.) Junior College following the completion of a master's degree in music at Wichita University.

In 1957 Walt moved to California to begin doctoral studies in church music at the University of Southern California. 1960 was an important year for Walt with his marriage to Mary Ann Heiser at Fisher, Ill., and their move to Kansas, where he started teaching at Bethel. They'd met in Freeman when Mary Ann was the home economics teacher at FJC. They joined Bethel College Mennonite Church the same year.

During his 32-year career at Bethel Walt took choirs to Europe in 1967, 1972 and 1982. He and Marles Preheim took a Bethel alumni choir to Europe in 2004. Singing in professional choirs with the Philadelphia Symphony conducted by Eugene Ormandy, participating in the Robert Shaw summer workshops in San Diego, and studying piano technology were pivotal experiences that enriched and influenced his life work. Mennonite hymnology was the focus of his doctoral dissertation; he received the degree in 1966. Walt also directed the Chancel Choir at BCMC and the Newton Chorale.

The Nativity and Passion narratives of the Gospels are appreciated and expressed in music. A favorite hymn is *If thou but suffer God to guide thee*, and Walt enjoyed conducting a variety of arrangements of it with choirs. Music is a hobby in his retirement years. He and his clarinet-playing friend, John Banman, play in a variety of settings and recorded a CD in 2006. Providing leadership since 1992 with a committee for Life Enrichment at Bethel is stimulating.

Health issues created major adjustments. Walt's gradual hearing loss determined when he needed to stop directing choirs. By-pass surgery in October 2006 curtailed activities and initiated new routines.

Walt and Mary Ann have two children: Scott (who lives in Harrisonburg, Va.) and Lora (who lives in Lawrence, Kan.), two grandsons and one granddaughter. He anticipates celebrating his 80th birthday with a gathering of family and friends. May God's love and grace continue to bless your life, Walt, as you begin a new decade. *Norma J. Johnson*

12th birthday: Mark Kreider

Mark is an interesting and busy 12-year-old who was born on February 26, 1995, in Gainesville, Fla. His parents are Heidi Regier Kreider and David Kreider. When his family moved to North Newton, Mark was five years old. Now he is an active 6th-grader at Santa Fe Middle School who enjoys social studies, plays soccer with the Newton Storm and basketball with the recreation league Junior Railers. He also runs regularly in 5K events.

Mark has studied piano since 2000 and started playing oboe this year.

He enjoys reading fantasies, books by Roald Dahl, and Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.

He also has an artistic eye, and several of his paintings are on display in his home.

At BCMC Mark enjoys Venture Club, Junior Choir, Menno Ringers and Wednesday night suppers. His favorite Bible stories include Noah's Ark, the birth of Jesus and the Exodus. He particularly enjoys Christmas hymns and participating in the children's program.

Mark "usually" gets along with his older brother, Ben. He also enjoys spending time with his uncle, William Eash, especially when it's at Curtis C's restaurant over biscuits and gravy. One of his most memorable times was when he naturally lost four teeth in one day while at their cabin in Colorado, a place he really enjoys visiting.

On his birthday he will have breakfast with his family and he will get to pick the dinner menu. (This year he's thinking of asking his mom make Nasi Goreng!) Later he will have some friends over and maybe go bowling or to a movie. There might even be a sleepover. Have a wonderful celebration and happy birthday, Mark! *Roger Juhnke*



With our members

Birth

Anne Marie Koontz was born January 1 in Newton (Newton's first baby of 2007) to Nathan and Esther (Kratzer) Koontz.

Dedication

Jackson William Brant Lonergan, son of Sandra (Goertzen) and Jared Lonergan, was dedicated Dec. 24, 2006.

Membership changes

Michael and Jamie Voran transferred their membership to Trinity Heights United Methodist Church in Newton.



Rebecca Trumble blankets

the church in love

High school student Rebecca Trumble enjoys making quilts and recently thought she could put this hobby to good use and raise funds for the Senior High Youth trip to San Jose this summer. For several weeks, BCMC attenders had the opportunity to purchase tickets in hopes of winning the cozy lap blanket shown here. The lucky winner, Marlene Faul, was chosen Jan. 28 at the senior high soup luncheon.