

# KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

October — November 2013 7:5



## WORDS FROM OUR NEW YOUTH SPONSORS

David LeVan, Ben Lichti, Karen LeVan



### From David and Karen Sheriff LeVan

First, a little background about David and Karen: David and Karen moved from Oklahoma City in 2008. Currently David is teaching in the business department at Hesston College, and Karen in the English department. Son Will, an eighth grader at Chisholm Middle School, and daughter Brett in fifth grade at Santa Fe 5/6 Center with their many activities both in school and church make for busy schedules. Our church has been witness to the music talent in these two young people, and many of their activities are music related. Their dog Sadie is a faithful running partner for David who trains year-round for marathons. To name a few family pastimes: spending time at the family cabin in Colorado, visiting family in Oklahoma and Vermont (David's family connections), cooking, writing, reading, OU football, etc. Karen is the

daughter of BCMC members John and Elsie Sheriff, and her brother is Kent Sheriff.

There are three main reasons David and Karen chose to be Senior High Youth leaders. Quoting

Karen: "First, we were very excited to spend more time with Ruth Harder and learn with and from her. We hope to continue to do so, even though it will be from a distance. We spent a lot of time planning and dreaming about the youth group with Ruth. She had to convince us we were the right people to step in next as youth group leaders, and her confidence in us means a lot to us. The youth group kids have been quite welcoming and haven't given up on us yet. We are very glad that Ben Lichti is partnering with us, and thankful as well that Roger Juhnke has agreed to do the Sunday school portion. These partnerships were part of the plan we worked out with Ruth even before she knew she was leaving. "Second, the Senior High Youth group was very much a part of my youth experience; in fact, it was a highlight of my adolescent years. Renee Sauder and Karen and Glen

Ediger led the group when I was in high school, and this was an integral part of my confidence, joy, and trust in the community and myself. "Finally, David and I have been looking for a meaningful way to engage with the BCMC community, and we thought that this might be the best way for us to do it. Our children have benefited immensely from their involvement in choir, bell choir, and Venture Club. "As we watched Renee Reimer, Vada Snider, LuAnn Zook and Doug Siemens, and Jeanette and George Leary among others, give so much to our children, it just made sense to jump in and figure out how we might contribute as well. Just starting out, we have great hope and loving intentions." Karen shared the value of her BCMC mentor Boots Raber since the early 1980s, and credits BCMC for giving her the opportunity to develop such a long-lasting relationship.

Karen also points out the exceptional contributions of former leaders Jill and Adam Robb, as well as Ruth, and we all know those will be big shoes to fill. Again quoting Karen: "The youth group planning notebook has on the front cover the following statement: 'Lead with the strength you have. Lead simply, lightly, gently, in search of love. And may the Spirit be with you'. This is precisely what David and I will pray we are able to do. May it be so for each youth as well." Welcome and thanks to Karen and David for accepting this important role.

*Information furnished by Karen Sheriff LeVan; Edited and comments by Lois Goertzen*

### From Ben Lichti

Quoting information Ben furnished: "I think the high school years are very important in a person's faith formation, as they are years that commonly lead up to baptism, college, and moving out on one's own. I hope I can be a positive influence in this time so they will feel comfortable to stay in a faith community wherever they end up. I have already been very impressed with their attentiveness and willingness to jump in and participate."

Ben is no stranger to us – he is the son of Monica (church secretary) and Marlin Lichti. At his first youth fund raising event, the lunch featuring foods of the Bible for a large group of the church congregation, he proved his chef talent and ability. Ben is an active participant in music activities in BCMC, singing in the chancel choir, playing in the bell choir, serving on the Finance Committee as well as with a few others preparing the food for Wednesday night suppers. We know there is much more to learn from this very quiet young man, and look forward with grateful appreciation to new abilities he has yet to offer as youth sponsor.

*Information furnished by Ben Lichti; edited and comments by Lois Goertzen.*

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Heidi Regier Kreider and Monica Lichti

On Sunday, September 15, Rosalind Andreas as worship leader gave the following opening. It seems particularly appropriate now, when we are welcoming not only new youth group sponsors but new Bethel College interns:

**PEOPLE**

Welcome to this place—students of all ages, teachers, preachers, farmers, lawyers and doctors, nurses, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, sisters and brothers, some alone, some in pain—welcome all who are here. Welcome in particular to families and students gathered on the Bethel Campus as part of Family Weekend. Each of us brings with us our different histories and life stories, different experiences and challenges, different abilities and gifts—each with our own thoughts, worries, “to do” lists, and fears. Calm us Lord.

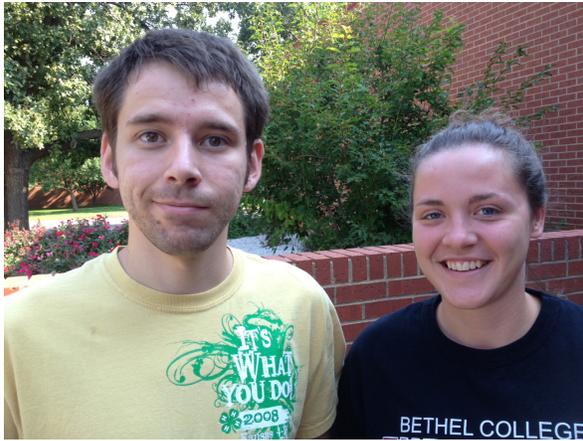
**PLACE**

...as we gather in this particular place here on the Plains of Kansas, we remember the people who, before us, sat in these pews; aware also of the people sitting near us in this place now; a place being remodeled, changing to allow this North Newton community of God’s people to remember who we are, the work we are created to do, with God’s help.

**PURPOSE**

As the hymn text reminds us. . . “What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth, the floor, walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light and an open door. Yet, it becomes a body that lives, when we are gathered here And know our God is near.” (Hymnal A Worship Book, #1)

**Welcome Our Bethel College Student Interns  
Joe Kondziola and Nicole Smith**



Ever since fall of 2008, BCMC has had a Bethel College internship program. This is one of many ways BCMC seeks to build relationships with Bethel College students and encourage their education, spiritual and vocational interests. Each year our student intern works approximately four hours per week. They are paid \$500 for the Fall semester and \$500 for the Spring semester. Interns are selected through an application and interview process. Each year internship descriptions are designed by pastors, in consultation with commissions and committees. In the past, internships were focused in music, youth ministry, peace and justice, faith formation, and art. For the 2013-2014 school year, the internship focus will be on caring and visitation ministries. An interview committee selected two students to fill this role. Nicole Smith, a senior Social Work major, will be our intern in the fall and Joe Kondziola, also a senior Social Work major, will work at BCMC in the spring. Nicole and Joe will work alongside pastors, Deacons and the Visitation Team at BCMC in order to visit and provide support to members and friends of BCMC. Susan Wheeler, associate pastor for pastoral care,

will serve as their primary supervisor. Nicole writes, “I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of the Visitation Team and get to know the wider BCMC community. I

especially look forward to meeting one on one with different church members and hearing their stories.” And our spring intern, Joe, writes, “I’m eager to begin working in the social work context, especially within my church community.” ~ Ruth R. Harder (written prior to Ruth’s departure from BCMC)

**Meet Nicole Smith  
First Semester Intern**

BCMC is privileged to have Nicole Smith, a senior social work major at Bethel College, as our fall intern. Nicole works with the BCMC staff, primarily Susan Wheeler, in the area of visitation and caring ministries. She became interested in this area of social work last year, enhanced during her internship with Kidron Bethel Village her junior year. Her work has already begun by attending a BCMC Deacon Commission and Visitation Team meetings. She will continue to meet with these groups throughout her term. In addition to having already visited several individual people, Nicole and Susan planned a service at Bethesda Home in Goessel and a *Meet and Greet* event at Kidron Bethel

at the end of September. These areas of service are a way of introducing her to our members, and the community she is serving.

Nicole grew up in Elkhart, Indiana, graduating from Concord High School, a member of a class of about 300 students. She is the youngest of three children, and her family attends Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart – a church community that is smaller than BCMC, but has a vital ministry, where J. Nelson Kraybill is currently lead pastor. She decided to attend Bethel College, sight unseen, as she wanted a new experience and to *move out of her comfort zone*. She is a talented musician and loves music, so you can see her singing in the Bethel College Concert Choir and playing the cello in the orchestra. She currently lives in the mods in Warkentin Court. She comes to her role at BCMC with a sense of curiosity and joy in learning to know older adults who she has learned have a wealth of interesting stories and much wisdom to share with her. Not only does it give older adults an opportunity to share their stories, but teaches Nicole much about life that she has not experienced. Nicole shared an interesting story about one of our members, Rosemary Moyer, who she visited and learned to know last year during her internship with Kidron Bethel. Nicole shared with Rosemary that she would be spending the summer (of 2013) in Denver with the Mennonite Mission Network DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflections). One day in Denver,

Nicole was approached by Janet Regier, one of the youth sponsors for the First Mennonite Church Youth Group in Newton, who spent a week in Denver. Janet said that her mother, Rosemary, had asked her to be sure and talk to Nicole Smith while in Denver, to see how her summer was going. This connection was very touching to Nicole, with a special appreciation for Rosemary.

It is connections like this that make a deep impression on Nicole. She expects to experience other events of a similar nature, and other stories to emerge as she learns to know BCMC members through her internship. And what will Nicole be doing after graduating from Bethel? She is not sure, just waiting for the right *door* to open. Welcome to BCMC, Nicole!

~ Karen Penner

**An Email from Janet Stucky from Benin  
Written Sept. 14**



I am sitting in my home office at the Benin Bible Institute class-

room where there is a cool breeze blowing & sun shining. I have experienced wonderful weather here since I have arrived. The temperatures have not varied much between 75 degrees to 82 degrees F. We are in between rainy seasons but no fall colors to enjoy. I have had a true immersion at the Benin Bible Institute and count as my friends from Elkhart those who have served here before

me. The people here talk every day of those folks which have made a deep & lasting impression even though the time span has been over 13 years! I also count as my very good friend the African who will also be participating in the colloquium. He lives here at BBI & has good command of the English language. I have not yet moved into my apartment. Many times buildings go unfinished due to lack of funds. I met with the landlord (a pastor) this week & gave him funds to complete the work. This will be applied to the first 10 month's rent. I plan to move in about two weeks. However, all appliances & household necessities are yet to be purchased.

My time is almost totally spent in total immersion of the French language. I have a top-notch teacher who is determined to have me learn French even though I'm an older student. He is very passionate about his work & he says I present him with a challenge! Yesterday when he came for class, he was very emotional with exuberance & excitement. He had just finished up a class of volunteer Peace Corps workers & at the final ceremony he was given the leadership award. I have the advantage of using the Peace Corps materials & lessons which are an integration/total immersion. I am developing many friendships as I associate both with Benin Bible Institute & Bethesda Hospital. I even had a person stop me when I was walking along the street in heavy Cotonou traffic & stated my name & whether or not I needed a ride. The children also are very curious and are brave to ask me questions and say hello. I think of my friends in North Newton often as well as

my community of friends in Wichita. I am amazed of my following & emails of support. Thank you for your continued support.

**Meet the Fellowship Sunday School Class**

As with other Sunday School classes at BCMC, the Fellowship Class has a long history of transitions. Begun in July 1976 as a gathering of post-college-age individuals, single and without children, we have been together through marriages, births of children, emptying nests (and the refilling of some), and the additions of children-in-law and grandchildren. Over the years, at least 50 individuals have been part of the class for varying periods of time. Our meeting places have changed over the years as well. One of the first gathering points was in the Bethel College Ad Building basement, but since then we've also met in the nursery (before and after carpeting!), in various homes, and shared space with the library annex before it moved out of Room 11, which has been our home until "the walls came a-tumblin' down"

recently. Even our name has changed. A typo in a church bulletin referred to wider fellowship member status as "wilder fellowship", and--needing a name for our class--we adopted the erroneous moniker. That name suited us and stuck for a time, but later simply became the Fellowship Class.

Fellowship has always been a big part of our identity. Along with sharing personal life stories, discussing ideas, questions, concerns and interests from sources such as "The Mennonite" and a wide variety of books and videos, we have gathered for many a potluck, enjoyed a tradition of Thanksgiving dinners, and participated in volleyball games, campouts, picnics, game nights, and the occasional movie or concert. Current attendees include Dave and Cynthia Linscheid, Ada and Wes Schmidt-Tieszen, Jim and Beaty Robb, Jane Wagoner, Vada Snider, Jim and Melanie Mueller, Jon Unruh, Glen and Karen Ediger, and Carol Flickinger and Roger Juhnke. Our next gathering-for-a-meal will no doubt include some reminiscing about our past, and discussion about what the future holds.

~ Carol Flickinger and David Linscheid



Jim Robb, Beaty Robb, Carol Flickinger, Melanie Mueller, Connie Esau (this was the Esau's going away party)



Ada Schmidt-Tieszen, Jim Mueller, Rex Esau, Wes Schmidt-Tieszen, Roger Juhnke

## Happy 80th Birthday Donna Neufeld!



"I can't save you, if you go out there." Those words of warning were said by Donna to her dad while con-

templating a pack of wild dogs milling about the windmill. So begins the series of vignettes written by Donna for her children- Kristi and Scott, spouses- Jonathan and Mary Beth, and grandchildren- Maya, Olivia, Sadie and Nathaniel. These stories, describing experiences and family values, grew out of many summers living on a farm near Potwin, KS, where the family- Menno and Alma Schrag Kaufman and siblings Neva and Arlan- farmed when not teaching during the school year.

"You'd better stop singing." - Plowing at night along a lonesome road far from the security of the house was not a time to attract attention. Donna enjoyed musical endeavors: Choir director at First Mennonite Church, violin quartet, church and wedding organist, teaching music at Pleasant Acres and Hillsboro (where Donna was born, Nov. 1, 1933), Charlie Brown skits with kids, and fiddle-slap-stick-singing "productions" with auto harpist RuthAnn Hiebert. Musical treats continue with "Beethoven's Symphony" in the sky- (the furious KS thunder storms); and the Yule-time thrill of having Kidron residents join the family singing *Nun Ist Sie Erschienen*. "What happened to your glasses?" We were shaken when- during WW II- Dad returned from taking wheat to the elevator, holding his shattered eye-glasses- broken by a farmer with conflicting practices regarding war and peace. Politics, religion, abuse, equality were gist for many serious late-night discussions. The politics bug was awakened and Donna was

propelled into the excitement of two enlightening runs for the KS House of Representatives- 1992, 1994. "I will not!" were teenager Donna's words as she stubbornly leaned against the tractor tire, refusing to plow- in protest to the culture of the day when the girl always drove the *smaller* tractor. This evolved into her pro-choice Tiller Clinic defense activity in Wichita and remains a vital issue. Other activity: Brooklane Farm volunteer, VORP, homeless shelter, as well as NOW (Natl. Org. for Women) and AAUW (Am. Assoc. of U. Women) where Donna edited the bulletin, "*Empowering Women*." "*Mom, Mom, the bull is after me!*" Alma heard Donna's cries and raced to save her little girl, who, while fixing pasture fence, had failed to "stare down" the bull. You can't "stare down" a bull that is pawing the ground ready to charge. Or you can't expect the snake to stay in the jar on the kitchen table overnight when the lid is loose. Or you can't expect to not bump your head if you are hurriedly greasing under the combine. Live and learn. Education was important. After graduating from Newton HS, Bethel College, and MSW (Master of Social Work) from Washington U, Donna taught Social Work at Tabor and Bethel colleges. Of special enrichment were interactions with students. This was followed by private counseling practice and presentations on justice issues, family communication, group dynamics and psychological concepts. Present projects include writing a series entitled, "*Winning Trumps Truth: Games, Manipulations, and Injustice in our Legal System*" for use in educational settings. "*We had no words as we took in the magnificence together.*" Menno and Donna, riding the tractor to the field, silently, reverently slowed the tractor and lifted their eyes to the awesome sky- inhaling the beautiful clouds billowing in the azure blue. There is no greater re-creation

than nature. What a gift for parents to pass on. Today, in the Neufeld living room, one can see a large bull snake skin across the mantel; under the glass table- a turtle shell, opossum head skeleton, starfish, preserved humming bird and nest, as well as a piece of the Berlin wall. The Berlin wall segment represents travel- to Paraguay, site of husband Harry's MCC work; and tracing ancestry in Europe, Russia and Poland. Initiating and editing the SMCHA Bulletin, "*Schweitzer Salt*" with sister, Neva, was a great opportunity to learn more about one's heritage. "*Turtle, what are you doing?*" There are concerns small and large. From the lowly turtle unknowingly courting danger by repeatedly crawling back into the newly-plowed furrow- to perils of our larger world: serious problems with our broken justice system- (ignored by most)- where often winning trumps truth and emotion trumps facts, where context that is crucial to understanding is overlooked; concerns with difficulties of life as we all look through a different lens; struggles to align words and actions as we strive for survival and gratification; losing sight of the common good in pursuit of power and control; and the unanswered questions of religion. Juxtaposed to these concerns is appreciation for the sincere "gems" who walk the talk- who have the courage to dare to be a Daniel/Danielle- to think through complexities, buck the tide, stand alone to do the right thing- all the while remembering to enjoy the journey. What a rich ride this has been- onward and upward.

~ Donna Neufeld

## Obituaries



**Howard Milton Regier —  
Jan 9, 1931-June 30, 2013**  
Howard Milton Regier, 82, died at Wesley Medical

Center in Wichita. He was born in Elbing, the son of Cornelius and Margaret (Epp) Regier. Howard was baptized and became a member of the Missionary Church. He graduated from Whitewater High School in 1950. He served two years of voluntary service at the Topeka State Hospital from 1952-53. Following his voluntary service, he returned to the family farm east of Elbing. He would remain working on the farm until his retirement in recent years. Howard later became a member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Mildred Regier; and a brother, Menno. He is survived by his brother, Otto of Elbing; a sister-in-law, Doris Regier of North Newton; two nephews, Myron of Haysville, and James of Whitewater; and their families. The celebration of life service was July 8, at BCMC.

## Larry Lakin—Oct. 6, 1946-July 1, 2013

Larry Lakin, 67, died in Wichita. A memorial service was Sept. 28, at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, Wichita. Larry was a wider fellowship member of BCMC.



**Jan Carol Niles—  
February 12, 1956-August 15, 2013**

Jan Carol Niles was born in Hugoton, KS.

Her parents, Clarence and Gladys Niles, moved from Hugoton to Newton when Jan was six months old. Jan graduated from Newton High School in 1974 and then attended Bethel College, where she graduated in 1978 with biology major and minors in mathematics and chemistry. She took a number of courses at Bethel after she received her degree, including a variety of art classes. In 1982, she graduated from the University of Kansas Medical Center with a degree in Medical Records Ad-

ministration. Her career in medical records took her to Omaha in 1982, where she lived until June, when ill health forced her to return to Newton to be close to family. In Omaha, Jan's first job was with the Boys Town National Research Hospital. After 18 years at Boys Town, Jan began working at Alegant Creighton Health as a Quality Resource Specialist. Jan was very creative and kept busy at her home with painting, quilting, crafts, was also a voracious reader and enjoyed traveling. She was a lifelong member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church and participated in BCMC's first handbell choir. Jan is survived by her parents, Clarence and Gladys Niles, her sister Gail and husband Mark Stucky of Moundridge, and nephew Matt and niece Marike. She was predeceased by grandparents Menno and Esther Schmidt and Walter and Linda Niles, Uncle Keith Niles and Aunt Mary Niles Watson.



**Delia Mae Goering Graber**  
December 22, 1922 – August 21, 2013

Delia Mae, oldest of six children, was born to Christian Samuel and Maria Frances (Kaufman) Goering on a farm near Moundridge. Delia was a graduate of Moundridge High School and Bethel College. On Aug. 11, 1947 Delia married Verne A. Graber. They celebrated 51 years together before his death, Dec. 2, 1998. Her career included 23 with Bethel College and 17 years with the General Conference Mennonite Church. Delia enjoyed family time, quilting, reading, and traveling, especially to see her granddaughters and their families and with her siblings to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Sales. Delia is survived by her daughter Paula (Mike) Morris, Wichita, grandchildren, Jobi (Ron) Pierce of

Overland Park, KS, Bradi (Bruce) Yaggie of Breckenridge, MN; Great Grandchildren Payton and Emerson Pierce, Chase, Cooper, Parker and Paxton Yaggie. Siblings Erna (Harvey) Stucky, Moundridge, KS, Lola Beth Ediger, Angel Fire, NM., Homer (Dorothy) Goering of Moundridge, KS and Gene (Janet) Goering of MI; sister-in-laws Helen (Rollie) Bahre of Topeka, Margie Dyke of Moundridge, and Evelyn (Stan) Koehn of Wichita; numerous nieces and nephews.

### With Our Members

#### Changes in Membership **Terminated membership:**

- Steven Pankratz
- Marcus Epp
- Jim Friesen

#### **Changed from full membership to wider fellowship:**

- Mary Faul Richardson
- Aaron and Caitlin Linscheid

#### **Transferred membership:**

Ruth R. Harder and Jesse P. Graber transferred to Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City

#### **Births (both in Newton):**

- Ruby Voyce Oswald born to Libby Schrag and Clark Oswald, August 17, 2013
- Greta Longenecker Schmidt born to Carol Longenecker and Jason Schmidt, September 21, 2013

#### **Did you know that.....**

The Kaleidoscope team has just learned that one of our Chancel Choir members, Boots Raber, began singing in the choir in September 1963, which makes her tenure in the choir a consecutive 50 years. What a



remarkable devotion to the worship services at BCMC. Thank you, Boots! This is no doubt a rare occurrence. We believe she has sung under three directors in her 50 years: Walter Jost, Marles Preheim and William Eash.

Our question to other Chancel Choir members: Have any of you been singing consecutively for 50 years or longer?



**Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to Mary and Herbert Fransens**  
October 24, 1953

**Did you know that .....** Every September for the last seven years, this trio of BCMC ladies (Susan Rhoades, Joyce Holck, and Lois Goertzen) has met in each others'



**Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to Ken and Hulda Voth**  
October 27, 1953

homes for a peppernut baking party. Each armed with a large batch of dough, cutting boards, knives and cookie sheets, the morning is spent cutting, baking and visiting. The end result is that at the end of the morning, and after a nice lunch prepared by the hostess, around 15 pounds of peppernuts are ready for sale by the BC Women's Association at Fall Fest. A fun way for good friends to work together for a common cause.

~ Lois Goertzen



Susan Rhoades, Joyce Holck and Lois Goertzen cut peppernuts



**BCMC has a Hall of Fame Member: George Leary “The Team is Bigger Than Me”**

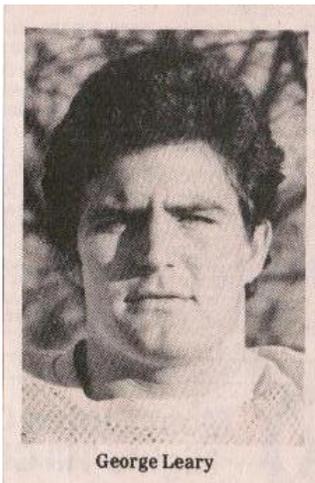
George and Jeanette Leary traveled to Pierson, Florida, a few weeks ago for George to be inducted into T. DeWitt Taylor High School Athletic Hall of Fame on September 6. In 1981, his senior year in high school in a class with 95 students, he was instrumental in leading the Taylor High School Wildcat Football team to the Florida Final Four in Class 2A. He was named to the 3<sup>rd</sup> team All-State in Florida as a linebacker, and their team was arguably the best team in the history of the school, according to athletic director, Tom Morris. George earned seven varsity letters in football, baseball and track, and was a standout athlete in football and track for the Wildcats. The current Taylor High School football team’s motto is

“The Team is Bigger Than Me.” One could believe this was George’s motto in 1981, and continues to be so today, as he devotes his life to children and young adults—in BCMC, in his family, and as the Principal at Newton Public School Santa Fe 5/6 Center.

George earned an academic and athletic scholarship to Bethel College in Kansas in 1981. Randy Westfal, Bethel College’s Assistant Coach, came to George’s typing class at Taylor H. S. in Florida, and offered George a scholarship to Bethel. George and four other Threshers earned the All-District 10 honors in 1984. With George’s help, the Threshers turned around their football record from a 1-8 his freshman year to 9-1 his senior year. His team was inducted into the Bethel College Hall of Fame in 2003. He came to North Newton from Florida, met Jeanette Voran . . . and the rest is history. ~ Karen Penner



**Deane Frey** won a Grand Champion award at both the Harvey County Fair and the Kansas State Fair, along with a *Best of Show* at the State Fair. In addition, she entered the quilt in the *Art is Ageless* showing at the Presbyterian Manor last spring, and learned her quilt will be featured in the Presbyterian Manor calendar in 2014. Congratulations, Deane!



George Leary

George at Bethel College  
←1984



**BCMC has multi-generational quilters!**

**Elizabeth and Katherine Lamp** are pictured here with their quilts. Katherine sewed a spaced-themed quilt with glow in the dark fabric. In addition to the stars glowing in the dark, she had part of it quilted with glow in the dark thread, too. Elizabeth pieced her quilt with batik fabric and added black cat appliques, and one mouse applique. They both received first place ribbons at the Harvey County fair and at the state fair Elizabeth received a first place ribbon and Katherine a second place ribbon.





**Living Stones update:** BCMC's Living Stones have just gotten a little dustier! The dust is coming from renovations which began recently, following

updates and photographs, see the church website. And remember that your contributions to Living Stones are more important than ever, as bills come due. Thanks for your ongoing support and prayers!



Looking south—down the hallway towards the doors of the sanctuary—this will be the new “gathering area” More pictures are on the back page.

the Church Board's approval of final cost estimates and plans to enlarge and remodel the main-floor foyer, create more accessible restrooms on the main floor, put a nursery and family restroom at the rear of the sanctuary, and install a new heating and air-conditioning system. To begin with, furniture, artwork, and other items had to be moved out of the affected areas into storage or other temporary locations. A big thanks to members of Facilities Committee, administrative assistant Monica Lichti, custodian Mike Crawford and other volunteers for all their help with this. Then came demolition: Taking down walls, removing fixtures, pipes and the large iron boiler, and careful removal of the ceramic tile mosaic in the foyer for safe-keeping until reinstallation. Now, new construction is getting underway. The construction crew (Regier Construction) has installed a temporary wall at the rear of the sanctuary, and another temporary wall blocking the main floor hall-way, to keep the mess out of our way, and curious people out of their way! This means that there is no access through the main floor hall-way from one end of the building to the other; and on weekdays, the main entrance of the church is used for construction purposes only. So, for now we are discovering other traffic patterns to get where we need to go and patiently waiting our turn at the temporarily reduced number of available restrooms; we are simplifying what we can, to accommodate the extra work required to manage the mess – and progress! We anticipate that renovations will be completed by the end of December. For more regular

## Pastor's Corner— Heidi Regier Kreider



As I write, a cool breeze blows in the open window of my church office, scattering papers off my desk onto the floor. But I am grateful for the windy fall weather, because we are temporarily without air-conditioning, while the furnace and AC in the north end of the church facility are being changed out. Also drifting through my window are snatches of top-40 radio tunes, construction-workers' conversation, and the sounds of drilling, pounding, and roaring machines. When I go on an errand to the other side of the church building, there are blocked hallways to avoid, pipes to step over, scaffolding to duck, and dust that gets tracked back in. It is just another day in our new “normal” here at BCMC, as Living Stones facility renovations proceed over, under and around us! Some people have asked me: “Why don't you just leave the office and go to a quieter place to work?” Sometimes I do, when I need to read, reflect and study without interruption. But, I am also grateful for the daily reminders of progress and the lessons to be learned from the construction process:

*Life is all about change.* Rather than resent that we are out of control, it is

better to embrace the process, lean into the change, and do what we can to participate – maybe even to help shape the future.

*No mess, no progress.* Life is rarely neat and tidy. More often it is complex, ambiguous, and difficult. To try to avoid that reality is to live life in the shallows. Again, it is better to roll up our sleeves, dive in, and not be afraid to get dirty.

*Simplify and prioritize.* The temporary disruption of the construction process requires extra time and energy to manage, with added decision-making, re-arranging of spaces and schedules, cleaning, and communicating what is going on. During this time, we must focus on the most important things and gracefully let go of non-essentials; we should go the extra mile, yet also acknowledge when rest is needed.

*There are many gifts, and one Spirit.* What a myriad of skills is required for a construction project: Architects, plumbers, electricians, heating/cooling specialists, managers and coordinators, builders, financial planners, church staff and volunteers all have important roles. In the

midst of this, communication is essential, and constant coordination goes on between architect, construction company, service providers, and BCMC representatives. Details are crucial; equally significant are the overarching plan and vision which connect all the parts.

I will certainly be grateful when the commotion of construction is finished, and we can put the renovated spaces to use serving our greater purpose and vision. But I hope I won't forget the lessons learned along the way – helpful reminders not only for the congregational setting, but for all the contexts in our personal and corporate lives where we are undergoing "renovation" and transformation by God.

*(this column is from a recent Pastor's Post on the BCMC website)*

Return service requested

**Worship schedule** (Check weekly bulletins and church web site, [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org), for updates and details on worship and other events)

- 9:30 a.m.—Worship (unless otherwise noted)
- 10:30 a.m.—Fellowship time
- 10:50 a.m.—Christian education

**October 2013**

**October 6, 2013—Fall Fest Sunday—9:30 a.m. Prelude; 10:00 a.m. Worship**  
*New Songs, Many Voices!* Worship with music by Bethel College Concert Choir and reflections by Bethel students, faculty and staff. No Sunday School on Oct 6.

**October 13, 2013—World Communion Sunday observed**  
Worship with meditation by Heidi Regier Kreider, communion served, and music by Junior Choir and Chancel Choir.

**October 20, 2013—Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by the Chancel Choir**

**October 27, 2013—Worship with sermon by Menno Simons Lecturer, Marlene Epp; music by the Cherub Choir and Chancel Bells**

**November 2013**

**November 3, 2013—Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by the Chancel Choir**

**November 10, 2013—Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by the Junior Choir**

**November 17, 2013—Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by the Chancel Choir**

**November 24, 2013—Thanksgiving Sunday**  
Worship with reflections by various members of BCMC; music by the Cherub Choir and Youth Bells

**You could receive the newsletter electronically.** The way of the world seems to be to read things received on the internet or email. Every month we mail over 200 newsletters to members at a distance. One way to help alleviate some of the expense involved would be to sign up for receiving your newsletter electronically. If you are one who receives a hard copy of the newsletter – either by mail or in your church boxes, but would be interested in an electronic version, please furnish us with your email address and we'll make that change. Tell Monica Lichti at [office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net) or at P.O. Box 364, North Newton, KS 67114, or by phone at 316-283-3667. The *Kaleidoscope* is in color electronically, by email and on the web site! Thanks for considering this change. ~ Lois Goertzen, *Kaleidoscope* Editor



Conrad Snider removes the mosaic from the foyer

*BCMC Kaleidoscope*



New restrooms go behind this piece of sheetrock



Water fountain will go in the arch — and then we won't have to use the orange jug!



The wall for the new nursery