

Prayer Requests

Mennonite Church USA: Kelly and Brian McPhail of Mennonite Mission Network serve in China as teachers and administrators through Mennonite Partners in China. Pray for them as they seek to live out Christian values through English teaching in Beijing and through providing logistical support for MPC's relationships with other agencies.

Western District Conference: Thank God for each baptism and each new member that has joined the family of God in this past year. Pray for faithfulness and fruitfulness as these new disciples grow in Christ and join in God's mission of redeeming, reconciling and restoring our world.

This congregation: Pray for Susan Wheeler as she begins a sabbatical time, and for other members of the congregation who will travel to Israel / Palestine in January with the Jerusalem Seminar.

If you would like to request prayer or a visit, contact the church office or one of the pastors. The Prayer Network and Visitation Team are ministries sponsored by the Deacon Commission.

Bethel College Mennonite Church welcomes into fellowship and membership all persons who confess faith in Jesus Christ, without regard to their race, ethnic background, gender, age, sexual orientation, education, ability, and other factors which give rise to discrimination and marginalization.

Bethel College Mennonite Church, 2600 College Avenue, Box 364

North Newton, KS 67117

Phone: 316-283-3667

Fax: 316-283-2079

Email: office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Web site: bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org

Church office hours: 9:00 a.m. – noon on Mon – Fri; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Mon – Thurs.

Building is locked daily at 5 p.m. unless evening activities are scheduled.

Notary public service is available in the church office.

Pastor: Heidi Regier Kreider, heidi.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Home phone 284-0448, day off is Friday

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: Susan Wheeler, susanmwheeler@gmail.com

Home phone 620-327-2295, cell phone 316-706-0887; day off is Monday

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: John Tyson, john.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Cell phone 215-896-1047; day off is Monday

Administrative Assistant: Monica Lichti, office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net

Custodian: Michael Crawford, 316-727-9840

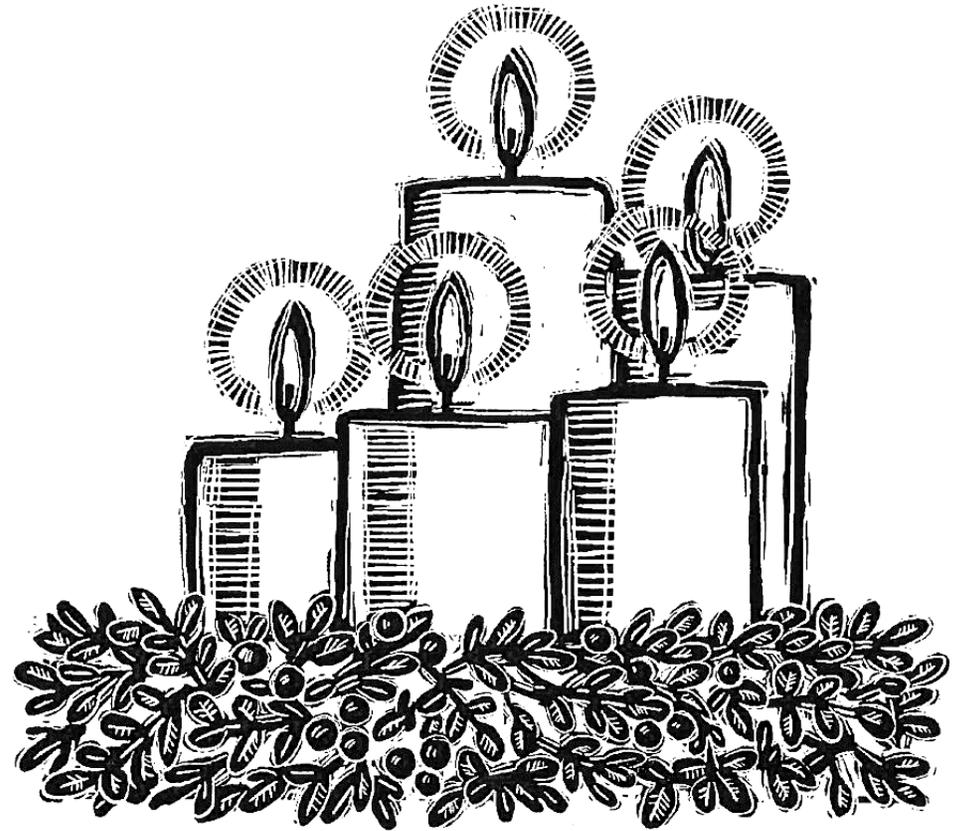
Music Coordinator: Rebecca Schloneger, 316-772-6084

Bell Choir Director: Vada Snider, 283-5231

Chancel Choir Director: William Eash

Cherub Choir director: Jill Siebert

Junior Choir director: Elizabeth Schrag



Bethel College Mennonite Church

December 28, 2014

December 21 at BCMC: Attendance: 307. General Fund \$7,447.31; Sr Hi Youth \$135.35; General Fund 2015 \$5,400; *The Mennonite* \$814; Caring Fund \$100; Living Stones \$7,905; Roland Ensz Memorial \$25; Inez Koehn Memorial \$25.

Sat., Jan. 3, meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Kauffman Museum parking lot: Join experienced birder Gregg Friesen, Newton, for the regular First Saturday Bird Walk; (27th & Main Streets, North Newton) for a 1- to 1.5-hour walk on Sand Creek Trail on the Bethel College campus. Binoculars optional, but helpful; all are welcome.

BCMC will celebrate World Fellowship Sunday on January 18, 2015. Each year Anabaptist-related churches around the world are encouraged to worship around a common theme on a Sunday close to January 21. On that date in 1525 the first Anabaptist baptism took place in Switzerland. World Fellowship Sunday provides an opportunity to remember our common roots and celebrate our worldwide faith community.

Western District Conference Executive Board has appointed a Search Committee to conduct the search for a new Conference Minister, following Clarence Rempel's announcement to retire next summer. The committee is chaired by Sondra Bandy Koontz, who also serves on the Staff Relations Committee. Please pray for the committee as they prepare to begin their work early in the New Year.

All are invited to a reception faspas on Jan. 18, 5 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, Newton, for Gilberto Flores, Associate Conference Minister for Western District Conference who will retire on Jan. 31, 2015.

It's time for men to register for a new season of singing with the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus; an opportunity to combine the love of singing with making a contribution to the mission of the church. All offerings received at KMMC concerts go to Mennonite Central Committee. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board, or call Omar Voran. "*We sing that others might live.*"

Scrapbook Retreat at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp is Jan. 16-18. Come for a fun time to fellowship with other "scrappers." For details about any of the winter retreats go to www.rmmc.org or call us: 719-687-9506.

KC 2015! Mennonite Church USA convention and delegate assembly will take place June 30-July 5, 2015 in Kansas City. Registration opens on January 5. For more information, see www.MennoniteUSA.org/convention or www.Facebook.com/MCUSA.Convention. (The BCMC Gifts Discernment Committee is in the process of appointing delegates to represent our congregation at the delegate assembly).

This Week at BCMC: December 28, 2014– January 4, 2015

Today—Sunday After Christmas

11:00 a.m. Fellowship time in the Gathering Place. Bring goodies to share! Coffee/water provided. **(No Sunday school)**

Monday, December 29—Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

3:00 p.m. BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Health Care

Tuesday, December 30—Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

1:00 p.m. BCMC worship DVD—Kidron Bethel Assisted Living

Wednesday, December 31 – Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursday, January 1 – Happy New Year! Office closed; building locked

Friday, January 2--Office closed; building locked

Sunday, January 4 –Epiphany Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship with music by pianist Mark Kreider; sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; commissioning for Harold Thieszen

10:30 a.m. Fellowship time in the Gathering Place; coffee/water available.

10:50 a.m. Christian Education

3:00 p.m. Ordination service for Elizabeth Raid—Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. New Year Memorial and Communion Service—Sanctuary

Welcome visitors and friends! May you sense God's presence at BCMC. Personal hearing devices are at the north sanctuary entrance. The nursery at rear of sanctuary is available during worship for families with infants and toddlers. Following Time with Children, children receive activity bags to use during worship (return to baskets at the entrance as you leave). We invite members and visitors to fill out welcome/prayer cards in pew racks and place them in the offering plates for response by pastoral staff.

Susan Wheeler, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, will be on sabbatical leave Jan. 1 – Feb. 7, 2015. Her plans include travel to Israel/Palestine with the *Jerusalem Seminar*, and a silent retreat at Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, IA. Susan will share sabbatical reflections during worship at BCMC on Feb. 15. **During Susan's sabbatical, retired pastor and BCMC member Harold Thieszen** has been appointed by the Church Board to assist with pastoral care responsibilities such as visitation, meeting with Visitation Team, funerals, and other caring ministries. A commissioning for Harold will take place in worship Jan. 4.

Thank you to the Fine Arts class for serving coffee during fellowship time in December, and to the Seekers class for serving in January.

Staff/Office schedule: The BCMC office and building will be closed for several days over Christmas and New Year, to allow vacation time for staff: This week's schedule:

- * Dec. 29-31 – Office open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., closed in afternoon; building open
- * Jan 1-2 - Office and building closed
- * Jan. 3-4 – Building open
- * Jan. 5 – Office and building open as usual

For pastoral care concerns, please contact the pastor on-call:

- Dec. 28-30 – Susan Wheeler (620-327-2295 or 316-706-0887)
- Dec. 31 – Jan. 4 - Heidi Regier Kreider (316-284-0448 or 316-727-4344)

Thank you for your contributions to BCMC this year! Contributions received in the church office by noon on Mon., Dec. 29 will be credited in 2014. Undesignated checks will be credited to General Fund. Other contributions must be designated in the memo line. **Year end reports are in your boxes**, unless you received them by email. Recycle the envelopes by putting them into assistant treasurer Lois Goertzen's box. Your generous support to the BCMC General Fund and many other funds and causes is greatly appreciated and benefits many.

• **On December 16 Congress passed H.R. 5771** which includes the retroactive extension of the IRA Rollover provision allowing individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers from traditional and Roth IRAs to qualified charities in amounts up to \$100,000 that are free from federal taxation and income taxes under the laws of states that follow federal guidelines for determination of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Note that the extension is for 2014 only and applies to gifts completed by December 31, 2014. This provision applies only to IRAs and not to 401(k)s, 403(b)s and other similar qualified retirement plans. Gifts must be made directly to a qualified charity and may not be made to donor advised funds, private foundations or supporting organizations. Please consult your financial advisor or tax professional for specific instructions as it pertains to your financial situation. ~ *Richard Friesen, Treasurer*

BCMC member Elizabeth Raid will be ordained in a service on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 3:00 p.m. at BCMC, with a reception following. All are invited to attend this special occasion! Elizabeth and her husband Lou Gomez serve as the pastoral ministry team at Mennonite Friendship Communities in South Hutchinson.

New Year Memorial and Communion service will take place next Sunday, Jan. 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. During the service, candles will be lit for BCMC members and loved ones who have died during 2014, and communion will be observed. Family, friends and community members are welcome to attend.

BCMC Witness Commission calls attention to the issue of repealing the death penalty which will come before the Kansas state legislature in the session beginning Jan. 12. Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty (KCADP) calls for letters to the editor in the next few weeks. Witness Commission will sponsor letter-writing sessions to legislators Jan. 4 and 11. If you would like to write a letter to the editor and need some helpful facts, contact Valetta Seymour of Witness Commission.

The BCMC winter congregational meeting will be Sun., Jan. 25, 12:45 p.m. following a soup luncheon served by Senior High youth as a fundraiser. **In order to plan agenda** for the meeting, the Board asks committees and commissions to provide a written motion or proposal if they have topics to be considered. This is also true for any congregation member who may want to make a motion. Knowing about plans in advance allows the Board to provide the congregation with accurate wording of motions, and to plan agenda. The Board will review these requests and determine the congregational meeting agenda at the Jan. 8 Board meeting. Send any proposals, or motions to the church office or to me. Thank You.
~ *Jim Robb, BCMC Moderator*

Thank you! for your contributions to the Harvest of Love, an annual campaign during Nov-Dec to raise food and funds for the Salvation Army food pantry. The goal of \$30,000 and 30,000 pounds of food is nearly met. To make a financial donation, make checks payable to Harvest of Love and send to Salvation Army at 208 W. 6th St., Newton, KS 67114. During the coming year, BCMC will continue to collect food for Salvation Army on the first Sunday of each month. Place food items to BCMC and place them on the pew in the south entrance under the coat racks.

Offender/Victim Ministries benefit: Support the ministries of OVM by using Dillons reloadable gift cards to purchase groceries, prescriptions and fuel. OVM receives 5% of each dollar spent. To purchase a reloadable Dillons card to benefit OVM, contact OVM at 283-2038, or stop by the office Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 p.m.

The nativity scene on display in the Gathering Place at BCMC during the Advent and Christmas season was a gift from Rex and Connie Esau.
~ *Worship Decoration Committee*