

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

July—August 2018 12:4



Pastor's Corner with Dawn Yoder Harms



At the end of a lively week of Vacation Bible School at BCMC, we said good-

bye to John, Amy and Levi Tyson during worship on Sunday, June 3. It seemed fitting to send them off with our blessing on a morning when the sanctuary was filled with children and families closely connected to John during the years he served as BCMC's Pastor for Faith Formation. Pastor John was a faithful presence in the life of this congregation, and we miss him.

And, even in the midst of this absence, God's provision comes to us. In July, we will be blessed to welcome Pastor Susan Jantzen as our Bridge Pastor for Faith Formation. She will serve as a "bridge" between Pastor John and a new "settled" pastor for Faith Formation. She will begin her time with us on July

10 and continue in this position for up to a year.



Pastor Susan J. comes to us from First Mennonite Church of Hillsboro, having completed seven years of

ministry with that congregation and many years of service in the wider Mennonite Church. She brings gifts related to faith formation, worship, and pastoral care, as well as a grounded, steady presence.

During her time at BCMC, Pastor Susan J. will focus her work in the area of Faith Formation (children and adults), preach once a month, and plan worship twice a month. During this interim time, Pastor Dawn will work alongside the senior high youth group and sponsors, as well as the Witness Commission.

In the meantime, a Search Committee for an

Associate Pastor for Faith Formation is already at work. Members are Suzy Burch, Marlene Ewert, Carol Flickinger, Dave Linscheid (chair) and Dale Schrag. I'll join them as an ex officio member. You may direct your thoughts, ideas, questions or concerns to any of us as the search process moves forward. They'd also welcome suggestions of candidates for the position, to be relayed to the Western District Conference ministerial office for appropriate initial contact. As we move into this time of transition, we remember that change not only brings loss; it provides opportunity for important growth. That growth will happen as we pause to listen--to God, ourselves, each other; as we practice gratitude--for what has been, for what will be, and perhaps most importantly, for what is now; and as we practice trust in the God who is present with us and continues to guide this congregation every step of the way.

Your prayers for this congregation and its leadership, including the Church Board, Search Committee, staff, and pastors will be much wel-

comed in the months ahead.

A BCMC Common Purpose Statement

Visions can be transformative. They can define a direction and guide through murky waters. Recently Starbucks needed to reaffirm their mission to "inspire and nurture the human spirit - one person, one cup and one neighborhood at a time" as they confronted a racist incident in one of their stores. What had gone wrong, and how would they respond to the challenge in light of their vision?

Congregations can also find renewed direction by stating their vision, mission, or purpose. Recently BCMC has taken on that task. The Church Board was challenged to find the "hub" that unites and drives all our activities. Their proposed statement reads: *Our faith in a God of*

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Monica Licht

love leads us to follow Jesus in doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. Sunday School classes have been encouraged to reflect and give feedback on preliminary drafts. Commissions have been asked to imagine how their work would be informed by it.

Responses have been instructive. The statement's conciseness, its emphasis on a God of love, and its call to action has resonated. Others would prefer the words of Jesus, to emphasize the importance of community, and include our reliance on the Holy Spirit. It elicited discussion on what it means to show mercy. There was a call to make reaching out to the disenfranchised of our community and the world a priority. All these are considerations in creating the final statement.

There has also been confusion. Does this replace the welcome statement? What about our constitution? While the constitution is about *how* and the welcome about *who*, a purpose statement is about *why* we work and relate the way we do. What core values hold us together in community? Any statement needs to have broad support. It needs to distill the core beliefs that define our life together. If this is true, putting into words our common purpose can

guide and unite us in both calm and tumultuous times.

Some organizations have been guided by their statements, others have hidden them away in files. There are many paths to visibility: banners, bulletins, newsletters, web pages, bookmarks, songs, responsive readings, calls to worship, prayers, etc. It can be a reminder to commissions or small groups of how their task fits into the large purpose, or an evaluation of how well they connected to the purpose of the hub as they moved the wheel forward.
~ Florence Schloneger

From the Education Scholarship and Service Committee (ESSC)

The ESSC has been highlighting our scholarship recipients over the past academic year. This month three more Bethel College scholars reflect on their past year or share their summer plans.

Connor Born is looking forward to participating in an aquatic chemistry and ecology REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) program at Florida International University.

Sarah Turner writes "This semester has been exceptionally wonderful but busy! I feel that I have been running every which way, but I have enjoyed every second of it. An unexpected joy I have had this semes-

ter is how much I have enjoyed Mennonite History, Thought and Theory, taught by Mark Jantzen. It was intriguing learning about the bits and pieces that make up the Mennonite religion. Such an eye opening experience. The class also had the opportunity to attend a service at Lone Tree Holdeman Church in Galva, Kansas. That experience ranks at the top of my list of experiences here at Bethel. The warm welcome was glorious and the potluck afterwards was heavenly. Attending the service opened the minds and hearts of all in the class and expressed how important it is to venture outside of the comfort zone and ask questions."

Laura Tran writes "Bethel College has given me the opportunity to participate in activities I'd never see myself doing, such as the steel drum band. It also has allowed me to pursue my passions as I recently was awarded Outstanding Freshman in Chemistry of Bethel College."

Congratulations to these Bethel students on finishing another year of their education!

Jon Voth enjoyed his time in Albuquerque with Service Adventure. Check out one of his experiences at this link: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/blog/God%27s-promise-to-sustain-in-South-Texas>. Look for an interview with him by

Glen Ediger in this issue of the Kaleidoscope.

~ Margaret Toews

Through the past year, we have been able to follow, briefly, some of the activities of our ESSC recipients. While focusing on their academic pursuits, they have also demonstrated their participation in a wide variety of other campus, church and community opportunities.

We as a congregation have committed ourselves to supporting them in these endeavors, both prayerfully and financially. As a reminder, our financial support of students attending Bethel College is an additional \$1000.00 each year, and that support comes from an above-budget fund, the Bethel College Scholarship Fund. At this point in the summer, we have enough in that Fund to meet our commitment to our Bethel students for the Fall semester, but we are \$2800.00 short of what we will need by December. Contributions to the Fund may be made at any time, and we, and our Bethel students, will be grateful for your help!

Carol Flickinger, for ESSC

Jon Voth and Service Adventure by Glen Ediger

Jon has recently returned from a 10-month adventure – with Service Adventure, which is a program of The Mennonite

Mission Network geared to 17-20 year olds in transition from High School to the next stage of life. Jon was located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the International District of town. This is a challenged community, being one of the most diverse areas of the city. It is home to a large number of international restaurants and grocery stores. It is also one of the poorest areas and has a high crime rate. It was re-branded as "The International District" but was previously known as "The War Zone".

The group of four young individuals and house parents live in a small house and a Casita, a separate building in the back where the house parents stay. Jon shared his experience with three young women. Kristen



Jantzen from Newton, KS; Marie Saleh from Frankfurt, Germany; and Judith Penner from Kaiserslautern, Germany. The house parents for the last three years are Bob and Sondra Tolle – from Moundridge, KS; this is their last year in this position.

The house is divided

into two groups, each group alternating each week with cooking/shopping and cleaning duties. This arrangement seemed to work fine and they all got along well and were really a quite tightly knit group. I asked Jon how it was living with three women and he said they were close but as with any family group there were also ups and downs.

As a household, they would do many things together, like taking group trips in the house van to Carlsbad Caverns and Rockport, Texas, for MDS work after Hurricane Harvey; and they also visited their sister group in Colorado. For fun, the group would go to the Dollar Movie Theater and a big favorite was going to "I Scream Ice Cream." The money each individual made went to the household fund, and they were each given \$30 a month for personal expenses. Jon worked at Habitat for Humanity's – Restore. The first half of his time there he helped at the store, checking in items, and then helping to clean and prepare them to be moved to the sales floor. For the other half of his experience, he was a part of the team that went out in the truck to pick up dona-

tions from individuals and take them back to Restore. All proceeds from Restore go to Habitat projects. Last year they helped support 12 building sites.

Everyone had a bike for transportation to work, as far as two miles, and also would walk or use public transportation; but the bus system is in horrible shape and not working well for those that really need it the most.

Walking to work could sometimes be a bit scary. Jon would go into work early, and sometimes people would start to follow him, so he would look for routes with good lighting, walk fast, and take shortcuts where he could. He never was confronted directly, although some of the others did experience harassment.

I asked him how he felt about the work he did. He said, "I loved it and I hated it at the same time." It was often physically and mentally demanding, working with ex-cons and people doing required community service presented both rewarding and challenging situations. He said he has become a bit of a workaholic, enjoying taking on the hard work, the goals, and the challenges.

He said the co-workers were a bit tough on him at times, talking smack and being challenging, but he saw his way through those problems and always tried to make the best of it. While at work he unfortu-

nately had an accident, breaking his hand in several places, when a steel press fell on him. I asked about a memorable experience helping people involved at work. He said he saw the best and worst in people donating things, some just treated them like they were just trash pickup, and others were very generous with their donations. One donor gave Jon some paintings that her late husband had done and a clock to show him appreciation.

Living in a big city was different than being in Newton. The very first night they were there, they heard gunshots nearby, possibly just shooting at street signs. The neighborhood was always alive with noise and activity. Kirtland Air Force Base was nearby, so there was a heavy presence of military personnel. Planes were always overhead, as they also lived in the flight path of the air force and Albuquerque International Airport. Once at night near their house, there was a lady screaming and fighting with her boyfriend and Jon got involved and tried to break it up.

One thing he really liked about Albuquerque was access to the Sandia Mountains. He liked to go on hikes,

continued next page

sometimes by himself, to enjoy the beautiful pink mountain colors as he hiked the trails. This was also one of the few ways he could get away from everyone and have some personal time.



I was very interested to see what he had noticed about coming back to Newton. He said his first night back he just laid in bed and noticed how quiet it was. He noticed the way people speak here, compared to Albuquerque, which was often much more rough; but when you meet a guy there you would always say “Hey Brother.” The things he used to take for granted, he now sees differently, like how people spend their money and what is important. “In the city you can learn very quickly about people, you can see the worst in people and the best in people.” While there, the house ended up taking care of a rescued-dog called Enzo. Jon be-



came very attached to Enzo; he says, “Enzo and I think exactly alike!” There will be all new people at the house next year and Enzo needed a home, so Enzo now lives in Newton with Jon.

I asked if he sees the world differently now? “Yes, I have learned to take a step back and not react right away ... assess the situation first.” He has seen people living a very difficult life, like a third world country. New Mexico is “The Land of Enchantment,” but people there in the International District call it “The Land of Entrapment,” where they are just trying to survive. “I have a new filter to view the world...I now take nothing for granted.”

In response to how he thinks this experience will shape his future, he said, “I definitely want to help people, change lives and give them hope. I want to help my people ‘the Navajo’ suffering with water rights and terrible hospital care.” He said, “YES, he would definitely recommend this program. It’s great to get away from home, to become yourself and find out who you are...a great time to mature; it’s a ‘tipping point’ between childhood and adulthood.”

Jon is working as a landscaper this summer and, this fall, is planning

to attend Hesston College and to study in the Disaster Management Program there. *(Glen Ediger was Jon’s youth mentor)*



Jon continued his interest in photography while he was in New Mexico — the mountain photograph and the desert lizard photograph are by Jon

VBS at BCMC

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9

Kids of the BCMC community learned about peacemakers in their annual Vacation Bible School, held May 29-June 1. In keeping with tradition, VBS was shared with New Creation Fellowship Church. Children came from as far as Kansas City for the week! The theme for the week was “Peace Lab: Discover God’s Way of Peace.” Children started

each day with worship time together, learning songs, watching the Bible story acted out, and learning their Bible memory verse for the week. After that, activities included learning more about the Bible story in their classes, games on the church lawn, and craft projects. Another highlight was the day Adam Robb came and shared science experiments, connecting them to how God works in the world.

The offering for the week went to Mennonite Central Committee to build wells. Kids learned about how water shortages cause conflict around the world and that sharing water is one way to be a peacemaker.

The week wrapped up with the annual VBS Sunday service during which participants sang songs, recited their memory verse, and shared what they enjoyed most about the week.

~ Megan Kohlman, VBS Director



Reading a book in the VBS preschool class



Playing a game

More pictures from VBS are on page 7

Visualizations of “Things That Make for Peace”

Humility / Service

Peace / Reconciliation



As a reminder that we all have a dominant sense in which we experience the world, consider this story of an incident during Vacation Bible School: While all the children were standing and singing, two little boys seemed oblivious to the music and actions going on around them. They stood perfectly still, their eyes on one of Bob’s banners at the front of the sanctuary. This went on for some minutes while they remained totally focused on the art. It was a touching example of the importance of visual arts, and the power of a skilled artist to invoke wonder.

A special THANK YOU to all those who helped make VBS a formative experience for our children. And to Bob whose art was seen even though he was not.

During this summer our worship services will focus on the theme *Things That Make For Peace*. Bob Regier has created two new art pieces providing visual expression to the themes of Peace and Reconciliation, Humility and Service.

Thank you, Bob, for helping us focus our thoughts with these artistic representations.

~ Florence Schloneger

Following is Bob Regier’s interpretation of his artwork.

Peace and Reconciliation

The dove and olive branch motif is rooted in the 8th chapter of Genesis. The sign to Noah that the flood wa-

ters were subsiding was the return to the ark of a dove with an olive leaf in its beak. This signified that peace was again restored between God and humanity. Within the Christian tradition the dove and olive branch have signified peace and reconciliation.

The dove is placed within a design that alludes to a landscape with lifting clouds at the top, a glowing sun, and suggestions of water and land below. The sun is a traditional symbol for Christ based on the prophecy of Malachi 4:2: *But unto you who reverence my name shall the sun of righteousness rise, with healing in its wings.*

Humility and Service

Found in the account of the Passover supper, the pitcher, basin and towel have become Christian symbols for humility and service.

“Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the

towel that was tied around him.” John 13:5

In this panel design stylized images of a pitcher, basin and towel are placed together on a surface that could be a table. Superimposed over these objects is an olive branch. This motif, as well as color, is used to tie the design of the two panels together.

What an individual can do to alter the course of climate change by Kaitlin Schmidt

In a previous article from the Creation Care Committee, Dwight Platt shed light on how greenhouse gases produced in our everyday lives affect air quality, weather patterns, and the diversity of life on earth. A rapidly changing Earth is a scary thing, and though the outlook is grim, there is much that an individual can do to alter the course of climate change: lower personal contribution to the atmospheric gas buildup, sequester carbon that has already been released, and add to important climate data with citizen science.

Firstly, we all must do our part to produce less greenhouse gas. This can be as simple as walking/biking instead of driving to church, or high tech as installing solar panels as your home’s energy source. Hanging your

laundry on the line instead of using the dryer saves energy, indirectly saving emissions at the powerplant. Greenhouse gases sometimes sneak into our lives in unexpected places - for example, a meat heavy diet usually produces more pollutants and carbon than a fruit and vegetable focused diet because of the carbon footprint associated with feeding/transporting animals and meat products. Not to mention, its good for you! Also, any new product you buy, such as a refrigerator or a new sweater, likely has a hefty carbon price tag on it. Consider buying used items whenever possible and fixing things instead of throwing them out.

Secondly, we can all support practices that lead to carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration is the capture and long term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Plants are excellent carbon ‘sinks’ because their biological processes remove carbon from air and trap it in the soil. By planting deep rooted native plants on your property instead of short-rooted lawn grass you can increase the trapped carbon on your land. If you don’t own your own land, you can push for community park plantings or landscaping practices that increase the biomass (green, liv-

ing stuff trapping carbon) in your area through local government.

Lastly, my favorite way to fight climate change is through citizen science. Simply put, this means average people can learn, collect data, and send that data on to degreed scientists who track climate change in many different ways. By being part of the Harvey County Butterfly Count, or by entering data into the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's bird watching website, we can help scientists track new patterns, predict extinctions, and raise awareness about all the unintended consequences that our emissions have on the plants and animals we share our planet with.

In my mind, climate change is a social issue. A hotter, more unpredictable earth is going to be hardest on those of us who have the least. It will mean migrating populations, potential land-use conflicts, rising prices and more disparity between rich and poor. By reducing my carbon outputs and working towards practices that trap carbon in biomass, I am helping future generations of people who will have to answer for the decisions we make today.

With our members.

Caleb Koontz, Abby Koontz, and Lucy Buller competed at the National

History Day finals at the University of Maryland in Washington, DC June 10-14. Their website entry, "Conflict within the Conflict: Mennonite Conscientious Objectors in Central Kansas during World War I", was a Top Ten finalist and earned 7th place in the nation. They also earned the Outstanding Affiliate Award for their project, earning the top overall entry for the state of Kansas in all categories. They were able to explore locations in Washington DC during the competition including the White House, the US Capitol, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and many other historical sites. The students met with Jake Short, a worker from the Center on Conscience and War (CCW.) He gave them a tour of several peace monuments in the city, as well as the CCW. The experience was very memorable and the students are grateful for the church and community support they received in researching their project and with support of their trip. After the History Day finals were finished, the name of their website was converted to a permanent name. The website is now titled: MennoniteCO.weebly.com

MCC Comforter Mini-Blitz

June 22 and 23 saw many hands, including some from BCMC, busy at the MCC Center in North

Newton tying, binding and sewing comforter tops. Given the refugee crisis in many places, including the US/Mexico border, this year MCC has requested 63,000 comforters. Some of the 75 comforters which were completed in North Newton last week will go to filling that need.

~ *Dianne Epp*



Carolyn Penner at the Mini-Blitz



Heidi Regier Kreider



Pat Friesen

the coming school year as a 7th grader at Chisholm Middle School.

Ian's favorite subject at school is math. He also loves sports and plays club baseball and basketball. He plays point guard on his basketball team and enjoys the opportunity to be a team leader.

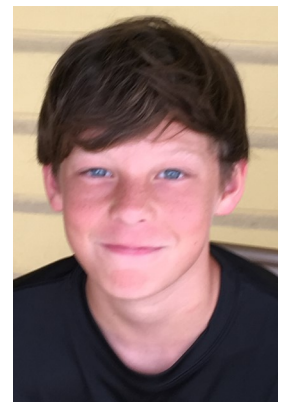
Ian is keeping busy this summer, participating in a conditioning training program in the mornings, spending afternoons at the pool, and playing baseball in the evenings.

Ian's parents are Janet and Orvin Voth. He has an older brother, Jon. He has been attending BCMC since he was a baby. His favorite church activity is Junior High Club. Ian, all the best as you celebrate your first 12 years of life. We are glad you are part of the BCMC family!

~ *Dawn Yoder Harms*

Happy 12th Birthday Ian Voth!

Happy birthday to Ian Voth, who turned 12 on May 4! Ian just completed 6th grade at Santa Fe Middle School. He will begin



Ian Voth

Anniversaries



Congratulations
Loretta and Dan
Baumgartner on 50
years of marriage—
July 14!



Congratulations
Marilyn and
LaVern Stucky on 60
years of
marriage—
August 7!



Congratulations
Eleanor and Don Kaufman on
60 years of marriage—August 30!

Obituary



**Ruth
Katherine
Baughman
Unrau—**

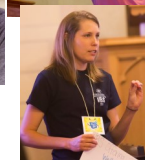
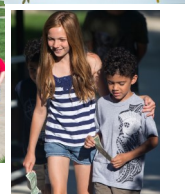
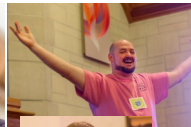
**February 28,
1922—June 20, 2018**

Ruth Unrau, 96, died at the Mennonite Memorial Home, Bluffton, OH. She was born in Kouts, IN to Alpha and Martha (Zook) Baughman. Aug. 1, 1953 she married Walter D. Unrau and he preceded her in death Jan. 8, 2005. Feb. 26, 2012 she married Bob Flick and he survives in Bluffton. Ruth was a well-known and published writer and poet who thoroughly en-

joyed writing and reading. She started Book Reviews in Bluffton and was a member of First Mennonite Church in Bluffton. Survivors also include two daughters, Paula (Martin Perez) Unrau of Dayton, OH and Susan Unrau Stuckey of La Honda, CA. Ruth was preceded in death by two brothers, Paul Baughman, Ernest Baughman; and a sister, Mary Louise Vercler. A Memorial Service was held June 26 at the Chapel of the Mennonite Memorial Home in Bluffton. Ruth was a wider-fellowship member at BCMC.

More Pictures from VBS

Below are pictures of other ways that our children encountered divine wonder during VBS's Peace Lab: story, scripture, collaboration, good food, crafts, friendships, and mentoring.



Bethel College Mennonite Church
P.O. Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Return service requested

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Worship schedule (Check weekly bulletins and church website, bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, for updates and details on worship and other events) Sunday worship is at 9:30 am, unless otherwise noted. Fellowship Time in the Gathering Place with coffee, water and tea available is at 10:30 am. Faith Formation is at 10:50 am. Everyone is welcome! Note: Any given Sunday's events may be subject to change. "The Kaleidoscope" can be viewed online on the website.

July 1, 2018

Worship with sermon by Chuck and Bonnie Neufeld; music by Chuck and Bonnie Neufeld and Rebecca Schloneger

July 8, 2018

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Chris Lehman, voice

July 15, 2018

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Keith Eitzen, French horn

July 22, 2018

Worship with sermon by Tim Hodge; music by Bell ensemble

July 29, 2018

Worship with sermon by Eric Massanari; music by Andrew Thiesen, trombone

August 5, 2018

Worship with sermon and music to be announced

August 12, 2018

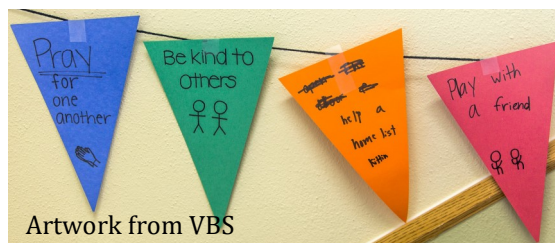
Worship with sermon by Kathy Neufeld Dunn

August 19, 2018—Back to School Sunday

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms
Bethel College new student orientation with worship at BCMC for new students and brunch following worship at BCMC for the new BC students

August 26, 2018

Worship with sermon and music to be announced



Artwork from VBS