

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

January— February 2016 10:1



A Review of 2015 at BCMC



The Christmas letters received during the season can vary from entertaining to maybe not-so-much, but usually they are informative. Consider this BCMC's Christmas letter for 2015 — the year in review.

- BCMC started Jan. 4, Ehipany Sunday, with commissioning Harold Thieszen. Pastor Harold assisted with pastoral care responsibilities from Jan. 1-Feb. 7 while Susan Wheeler, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, was on sabbatical leave. We celebrated with Elizabeth Raid, in an ordination service in the sanctuary in the afternoon. In the evening we had the annual New Year Memorial and Communion Service remembering those BCMC members who had died in 2014.
- There was the usual January congregational meeting to approve the budget for 2015.
- Wednesday night suppers were Feb. 4 to March 25. More than \$3,500 was raised at the Feb. 25 Wednesday night supper designated as a fundraiser for the BCMC scholarship fund to increase our support of BCMC students attending

Bethel College.

• The Chancel Choir was busy learning Brahms *Requiem* in order to join the performance of the complete work at Bethel College on May 3. They performed different movements during the months of February, March, April, and May.

• A program of Lenten and Easter music, *Looking Toward Easter*, by organist and BCMC member, Shirley Sprunger King, Mar. 22, benefited the Living Stones Organ Fund.

• The Faith Formation Commission hosted a Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch following worship on March 29 for the children, youth, college students, young adults and their families.

• The BCMC Senior High Youth Group sponsored a potluck lunch on Apr. 26 and provided desserts for that lunch in order to raise funds for their trip to attend Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City. This was followed by the spring congregational meeting in the sanctuary.

• On May 3 It was announced that Pastor Heidi Regier Kreider accepted a call to be Western District Conference

Minister beginning Aug. 17.

• The Bethel College Baccalaureate Service was May 17 in the BCMC sanctuary.

• *Many Gifts, One Spirit*, a sculpture by John Gaeddert was installed in the south entrance and dedicated on May 24. Also re-dedicated that day was, *We are the Church Together*, a ceramic mural originally created for BCMC's centennial which was re-installed in the Fellowship Hall by Conrad Snider. During the summer, BCMC hosted Allie Shoup as a Mennonite Church USA Ministry Inquiry Program intern. Allie was introduced to the congregation on May 24.

• Vacation Bible School was May 26-29 with the theme, *Message Received, Hearing God's Call*.

• BCMC held an auction (and a bake sale) June 27 sponsored by the Facilities Committee and Art Committee to raise funds for the Visual Arts Fund and Facilities Plant Fund. The sale netted \$4,288; the bake sale brought in \$714.00.

• July 26 was the congregational potluck meal and farewell for pastor Heidi Regier Kreider which followed the worship service that included a ritual of release for Heidi who concluded as pastor at BCMC July 31.

• Pastor Dorothy Nickel Friesen was installed Aug. 2 as interim pastor.

• A Pastor Search Committee was formed and began meeting August 19 to prepare for the search for a settled pastor for BCMC.

• A new Sunday school year started August 23 with the commissioning of teachers, club leaders and sponsors.

• Peace Sunday was Sept. 20 and the unveiling of Robert Regier's digital illustration *Peace and Reconciliation* in the Gathering Place.

• Fall Congregational Meeting was Sept. 27.

• Fall Wednesday night suppers began Sept. 30 and included meals suggested and sometimes even cooked by BCMC "guest cooks."

• October was a time of picture taking for the new BCMC Pictorial Directory.

• November was Pony Express time concluding with Stewardship Sunday on November 8.

• We began to look to Advent on November 29 and then, of course, there was the youth's Christmas Eve program at 7 p.m. (it was excellent!) and Lessons and Carols at 11 p.m. (also excellent!)

• We said sad goodbyes to the following BCMC saints in 2015: **Thelma Bartel** (Feb. 14); **Irvin Peters** (Mar. 2); **Fernan Loganbill** (Mar. 2); **Javan Shelly** (Apr. 21); **Evelyn Lohrentz** (May 15); **Esther Bohn Groves** (June 3); **EIVera Prouty** (June 9);

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Marie Ratzlaff (June 22); **Wanda Claassen** (June 30); **Howard Snider** (Aug. 2); **Viola Ediger** (Aug. 11); **Mary Esther Loganbill** (Aug. 28); **Lanoy Loganbill** (Sept. 5); **Clinton Koppes** (Nov. 25) and wider fellowship member, **Harriet Shirley**, Dec. 13.

All the above is just the tip of the iceberg. There were abundant committee and commission meetings, fund-raising suppers for various people and causes, concerts, Women's Fellowship meetings, Mennonite Men's breakfasts, Youthful Men's breakfasts, Youth Group gatherings, Mentor/Mentee gatherings, Sunday school gatherings, quilting galore, Mennonite Church USA conference, Western District Conference assembly, CROP walk, MCC Meat Canning, new members joining BCMC, Homeless Shelter meals and volunteering and all kinds of other volunteering at various places! It was exhausting! And all very rewarding! ~ *Monica Lichti*



Looking Forward to 2016

What will the new year bring? Already there are things on the BCMC calendar that give us a glimpse into the "beating heart" of the congregation.

- January 9: The Bethel College Relations Committee hosts the "Pancake Feed" for college students
- January 16: Deacons host CPR training
- January 24: Youth lunch fundraiser; Congregational meeting
- February 10: Wednesday night supper begins; Ash

Wednesday service

- February 14: First Sunday in Lent
- February 15: Gifts Discernment survey return deadline

Something new in 2016 will be a Church Retreat at Camp Mennoscah on April 30 - May 1 (noon to noon). There will be no worship or Sunday School at BCMC but everyone will be invited to fellowship, activities, worship and meals at camp. The Faith Formation Commission is planning for an intergenerational event. Mark your calendars. There will be many details later in spring.

~ *Dorothy Nickel Friesen*

Pastoral Search Committee Report

Here we go! We have (finally) completed all the preliminary steps. On December 10 the search committee met with Clarence Rempel, our Western District Conference liaison. He was very impressed with our Congregational Information. Then we began reviewing, with Clarence, the nominations that we've received, plus some additional ones that Clarence brought. This process will continue when we meet. Keep nominating, and keep praying. ~ *Dale Schrag, Pastoral Search Committee — Other members are Rosalind Andreas, chair; Judy Friesen, Jennifer Koontz, and Jon Zerger*

Upcoming Western District Conference Events

- Jan 9** – WDC Executive Board Meeting
- Jan 12** – WDC Church Planting Commission meeting

Feb 1, 2016 – WDC Resource Commission meeting

Feb 18, 2016 – WDC Stewardship Commission meeting

• Excerpts from "The Conference Minister's Heart — December 2015 (taken from the WDC website)

"Know your strengths, vulnerabilities, and triggers; and Know the story others tell about you – When Mary received the announcement from the angel that she would bear a child to be the Son of God she was frightened and perplexed. When Joseph learned that his fiancée was pregnant, he was worried what people would say; hoping to avoid public disgrace he "resolved to quietly break the engagement...." Yet, in the face of vulnerability Mary and Joseph also chose to exercise their strengths: Mary trusted in God's promise, and Joseph obeyed divine instructions to continue to care for Mary in marriage. They also listened to other voices, which helped them comprehend their experience and the identity of Jesus: When the pregnant Mary visited Elizabeth, Elizabeth cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" After the birth of Jesus, the angel said to shepherds in the fields, "To you is born this day a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." The wise men asked, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?" The elderly Simeon, blessed the infant Jesus in the temple, and said to Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword

will pierce your own soul too."

The sobering prophecy by Simeon points to another set of leadership competencies that are crucial in "managing self:" *Choose among competing values and Get used to uncertainty and conflict.* As the earthly parents of Jesus, Mary and Joseph encountered difficult choices and danger. The night of Jesus' birth there was no room for them in the inn, and later this young family became refugees fleeing for their life from the threat of Herod's tyranny and violence. They showed us that God is present in the midst of the world's realities and suffering.

Finally, Joseph and Mary's experience invite us to embrace the complementary leadership practices of *Experimenting beyond your comfort zone* and *Taking care of yourself*. Christmas is a time to enjoy the comforts of family, food, familiar traditions and cozy surroundings. Yet, it is also a time to open our lives to new experiences of God's presence and purpose. Like Mary and Joseph, may we too recognize how God is calling us to become a home for the Word made Flesh." ~ *Heidi Regier Kreider, WDC Conference Minister*

BCMC as Ministry

I was sitting in the very back of the sanctuary watching and listening to the Christmas program by the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA) on Friday evening, Dec. 11. Children from 3 - 18, dressed in black pants and white shirts nervously practiced while parents, grandparents and younger siblings

roamed in the Gathering Place. "Ooh, look," said a small child as she reached to touch the baby Jesus in the creche. Another wiggly boy went directly for the water fountain and begged for a drink of water. A blond, curly-haired toddler wandered into the library and soon her mother was reading a book to her as they passed the time waiting for the program to begin.

Finally, the stage was set and the performers (probably over 30), marched in and took their places. The sanctuary, beautifully decorated, provided the festive atmosphere. The PA system was used by the storyteller with great animation as he told the Dickens story. It was an impressive musical strings program.

Behind me, the nursery was never empty. Up to five infants through four-year olds were enjoying the safe and sound-proof room as they played and one baby cried in typical evening colicky manner. Parents supervised the space and cared for each other.

At the end of the program, it was my distinct feeling that BCMC's Living Stones project was so worth it. The community was enjoying a space that was good for a concert and performance; the children and parents had a comfortable, peaceful environment for sharing in Christmas joy.

Then on Monday, Dec. 14, the Fellowship Hall became a setting for the Foster Families of Harvey County to have a Christmas dinner. Amy Tyson, staff person for St. Francis Community Services, and her colleagues hosted this event for over 60 parents and

foster kids. Several BCMC members served as servers, hosts and dishwashers. Margaret and Francis Toews provided music! Again, BCMC provided a great space for the community --none were members of BCMC.

Most BCMC people have no idea how many people use our building each day, each week, each month, each year. This testimony reminds us that our calling to be a center of grace, joy and peace came alive for me in the last four days.

And, oh yes, we had worship and Sunday School on the weekend also!

~ Dorothy Nickel Friesen

A spark of service and a community need kindle preschool

Sometimes the needs of a community meet its resources at exactly the right place and time, and the result is an enduring institution. That's the case for Community Playschool, located at Bethel College Mennonite Church (BCMC) in North Newton, which is turning 50 this school year.

In 1965, Mary Ellen Meyer, now of Goshen, Indiana, was raising five children with her husband, Al, who was then dean at Bethel College. She was also chair of the mission commission at BCMC. BCMC was one of three Mennonite congregations in Newton and North Newton at the time, along with Faith Mennonite Church and First Mennonite Church. "We didn't do a lot cooperatively," Meyer recalls. "The three chairs [of the churches' mission committees] got together to talk about what we could do to reach out to the community cooperatively. Our questions were: What gifts do we have? and What are the

needs?" With the help of resource people such as Stan Bohn (then a pastor in Kansas City, now retired in North Newton), Orlyn Zehr, Newton, a social worker and educator, the superintendent of schools at the time and a representative of the Newton Police Department, an "Evangelism Workshop" Oct. 1-2, 1965, brought to light the challenges that some of the clients served by the local Welfare Office faced. "We were looking at the needs of single mothers with small children who didn't have resources," Meyer says. "This coincided with interest in Headstart and with research being done with brain development in early childhood that showed the importance of early stimulation for reading and future learning." A follow-up meeting in late November led to plans to begin making contacts with some of the women – "Welfare Office clients who said they were willing to be contacted," says Meyer. "So we went around and visited them."

In May 1966, what would become Community Playschool began with 6-9 children and about a dozen volunteers from the churches, meeting at First Mennonite Church one day a week. The idea was to give the mothers some time off and get the children involved in enrichment activities. "We had done reading on the kind of atmosphere that helps learning," Meyer says. "Learning to focus, and to interact with others, was important. We had games, puzzles and other activities." Mary Ann Jost of North Newton, also from BCMC, was one of the first volunteers. "Mary Ellen called to see if I'd be interested," Jost

says. "I had done some work in early childhood education in graduate school and I had some experience with preschool children." In addition to providing foundational education for the young children, part of the goal of the project was to develop relationships with their mothers. Jost and another early volunteer, Mary Rempel, Hesston, were most involved in the parents' group in the early days, Jost says. Once a month, the mothers were invited to come to play-school with their children. "While the children were in their class, we talked about nutrition, tried out recipes and talked about child-raising," Rempel says. Rempel had recently moved from British Columbia, where she was trained as a public school teacher, with her husband and three young children. Meyer met her through BCMC and invited her to join the play-school volunteers. Within two years of the preschool's beginning, the Meyer family relocated to Indiana. Jost and Rempel continued their involvement with the preschool, which adopted the name Community Playschool in 1967 when it was licensed by the State of Kansas. Jost served as director from 1968, when the preschool moved from First Mennonite Church to Bethel College Mennonite Church, until 1973, when Rempel and Ardys Becker became co-directors. Rempel has been involved off and on throughout Community Playschool's history. She is currently a board member, representing supporting congregation Shalom Mennonite Church – others, in addition to BCMC and Faith, are First Presbyterian Church, Newton, and Grace Hill Mennonite Church, rural Newton.

The preschool now

has 40 students and 14 volunteer teachers, in addition to a paid director, and is open four days a week. The parents' group no longer meets regularly but parents continue to be involved in various ways. Although the school has always been a church effort, it was never overtly religious – although, Jost pointed out in an interview she did at the time of the school's 20th anniversary, there has never been a question the preschool is faith-based. "Our idea of laying a foundation of religious values and teaching is more in how we relate to the children and their families," she said, "the caring and concern we can show them." Fifty years on, she credits much of the preschool's success to "dedicated people, both the volunteers and the directors" (the teaching staff has always been all-volunteer; directors began receiving a modest salary fairly early on). "Sometimes something that seems small, that comes from a modest spark, meets a need and is presented to people with the ideas and resources to run with it," says Meyer. "Then who knows what can happen?"

by Melanie Zuercher, Shalom Mennonite Church

A Letter from Janet Stucky—Mennonite Mission Network Worker in Benin, West Africa



I safely returned from our trip teaching nutrition classes around Benin! We traveled approximately 35 days going

to the west near the Togo border, to the east near Nigeria, to the mountainous central part of the country, and finally to the remote northwestern part

of Benin near the Benin's national park and wildlife. The objective of our trip was to train our participants to eat and prepare their locally grown and available foods to keep healthy and stay well. We were overwhelmed with gratitude and enthusiasm for our presence, our teaching, and our visit.

We were in six different communities and stayed from 2-6 days depending on the number of classes we were teaching. Each community had its unique ethnicity, culture, language, and foodways. My colleague was able to communicate in the local languages in the communities in the central and southern part of Benin. We were joined by another one of his colleagues from the Peace Corps in the northern part of the country where the customs and the languages are different. Between these two colleagues of mine, all 62 languages of Benin could be understood and communicated. My French was useless! In the northern part of the country, the people were gracious, welcoming, and friendly. From the youngest to the oldest, the words I understood on the street were "Welcome." These areas seldom get visitors nor are they likely to get out of their isolated villages. Our overall impression as we traveled from one community to the next was one of deep gratitude and thankfulness for our message. We felt as though we were a light shining in the darkness to these communities who receive little training nor visits from outside sources. We were invited by the authorities of the communities and villages who requested that we come back and teach more of their residents. My colleague was interviewed by journalists and even sat in the king's presence in his own boyhood com-

munity. Upon our departure the villagers expressed their thanks in various ways through their song and dance or by more official ceremonies. In one community, we gave certificates of attendance to all 100 participants, the pastor spoke along with singing and dancing as gifts of appreciation. My colleague and I were given matching local dress which we wore at the ceremony.

Then on Saturday we ended our trip with a class at the Benin Bible Institute. We had 150 students plus staff in attendance. The audience were potential leaders of churches in the villages around Benin. In each class we involved the participants with activities to help in understanding of the concepts. Since my colleague has a degree in adult education, his expertise and experience was invaluable. In all of our classes we ended with a demonstration of the process of making a vegetable salad using local produce. At IBB we placed the students in 10 stations and had them prepare their own salads. I first demonstrated how to wash the produce properly, rinse, bleach to kill the bacteria, rinse again, chop, and then mix together. We also demonstrated how to make a vinaigrette dressing instead of mayonnaise which is used in great quantities. To see this activity with 150 people in one room was amazing! The satisfaction, the enthusiasm and thankfulness for our visit cannot be described in words.

Our trip was not easy, nor was it always safe. We took risks. We had the prayers of many for our safety and we felt the presence of God in many ways. We traveled by personal car over paved roads, very bumpy roads, and roads that didn't even exist. We had personal friends join us at certain

areas along the way for safety. We returned tired but overwhelmed with joy and satisfaction that our objectives had been met and our message has impacted well over 600 people and their families. My gratitude also extends to my African colleagues who personally exhibited passion and enthusiasm in their delivery of the class sessions. They also conveyed their personal desire to change their eating habits as well as that of their families. This was clearly demonstrated in the translation and as we ate together. Thank you for your support in so many ways during my ministry in Benin.

A Creation Care Covenant

In a typical BCMC Creation Care Committee meeting, we discuss projects that support and celebrate creation care in our congregational life. In a recent meeting however, conversation shifted to the theological underpinnings of creation care. What lies at the heart of creation care for our faith community? In revisiting our congregation's 2002 Creation Care Covenant (copy follows this article) we see that... God calls the church to participate in the redemption of individuals, all of humanity and creation. Ministries of environmental stewardship and environmental justice are significant in the mission of the church. Therefore we, the Bethel College Mennonite Church, affirm the importance of healing and defending creation to our mission... (<http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org/about/creation-care-covenant/>)

Guided by the Creation Care Covenant, the Creation Care committee continues to seek opportunities that encourage our faith community to translate the Creation Care Cov-

enant into daily acts of "... healing and defending creation.."

In light of the recent Paris Climate Agreement, and recognizing that climate change will most directly affect the poor, the less fortunate, and future generations, we invite members to support two current legislative issues.

In November 2015, the Obama Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency announced a coordinated effort to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants: the Clean Power Plan. Under the plan, each state will create its own plan for implementation. We want to support the Clean Power Plan by contacting the Kansas governor and state legislators, urging them to *swiftly* develop a plan so that Kansas is on track toward a future with cleaner energy and cleaner air.

(http://action.creationjustice.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=15649)

Chris Gibson (R-NY) has introduced a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives (H Res 424) that recognizes the impact of climate change and calls for action to reduce future risk. This resolution is an important step toward getting Congress engaged on climate change and focused on workable solutions. We want to support the Gibson Resolution by urging our Republican representatives to co-sponsor the resolution.

(http://fcnl.org/issues/energy/bipartisan_climate_legislation_supported_by_FCNL/)

The Creation Care Committee will provide additional

information in the January 10 bulletin in preparation for petition signing on January 17. Our response as a congregation recognizes God's love for earth and our responsibility in caring for the creation. Our personal acts of discipleship and stewardship are also acts of faith and hope for the future!
~ Lorna Harder for the Creation Care Committee

The BCMC Creation Care Covenant

God created the earth and all that is in it and declared it good. God's creation is marked by wondrous complexity, interdependence and beauty. Human beings are called by God to the task of stewardship—taking care of the earth respectfully for its own sake and so that present and future generations may live on it and enjoy its fruits. The gifts of creation and the responsibility of stewardship were given to all of humanity, so that all might have enough and no one would have more than is needed and God's justice would prevail.

In our pride and brokenness, all of humankind is in sin and separated from God. The earth has not been well cared for. The water and air and land are polluted with poisons which hurt people and all creation. Many species of animals and plants are endangered by the behavior of human beings and the rate of extinction of species has dramatically increased, eroding the diversity of life on earth.

We have not shared the fruits of creation justly. Some people live in luxury, taking more than they need, while others are desperately poor, especially people of

color.

God, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, heals and reconciles humanity and all of creation to God. We are able to become new creations – the new comes and the old passes away.

God calls the church to participate in the redemption of individuals, all of humanity and creation. Ministries of environmental stewardship and environmental justice are significant in the mission of the church. Therefore we, the Bethel College Mennonite Church, affirm the importance of healing and defending creation to our mission. We promise to continue to be engaged in this ministry in the following ways:

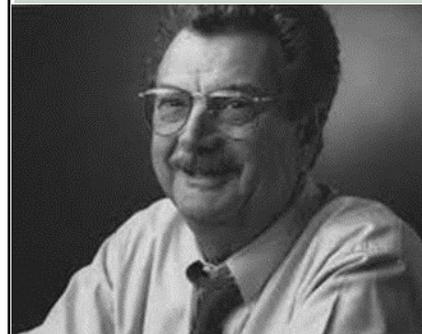
Worship – In worship, we will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and will declare that God calls us to participate in the redemption of the world by cherishing, protecting and restoring creation.

Learning and Teaching – We will seek opportunities for ourselves and our children to learn more about the wonders of creation, the threats posed by human beings to the survival of creation and the possibilities of our participating in God's redemption and justice.

Lifestyle – Our individual and congregation's lifestyles will respect and cherish creation. We will form habits of consuming, conserving and sharing that serve to protect and restore the environment. In particular, we will reuse and recycle as many materials as we can and seek ways of limiting our consumption of limited resources and minimizing our pollution of the environment.

Community, National and Global Involvement – In our community, the nation and the world, our congregation will witness to and participate in God's redemption of creation by supporting public efforts and policies which support vulnerable people and protect and restore God's creation. We seek to cooperate with other faith communities and secular institutions toward this goal.

Happy 80th Birthday Dale Horst!



Dale Horst was born in New Holland, Pennsylvania, on January 27, 1936, the second of five children. His parents were "plain" Mennonites, members of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Dale was baptized at the age of 13, following his parents' example, but his affiliation with the Lancaster Conference Mennonites was terminated in 1955 when he wore his class ring to church one Sunday morning. Soon after Dale and his parents moved their memberships to Bethel Mennonite Church, a General Conference church.

Dale was not encouraged to go on to college by his high school principal, but chose rather to enter Mennonite Central Committee Voluntary Service where he served as a normal control patient in an LSD study at the National Institute of Health (NIH) at Bethesda, Maryland. Three pivotal events happened while at NIH: he fell in love with "real" science, he fell in love with Rosie Claassen

from Newton whom he later married, and he became acquainted with General Conference Mennonites through other volunteers. After his service, encouraged by Rosie and some NIH researchers, Dale applied to attend Bethel College. He was accepted as a freshman at Bethel College in 1957. He majored in Biology and studied under Dwight Platt and Wayne Wiens.

After Dale graduated, he returned to NIH to work as a laboratory technician. Again, encouraged by NIH researchers and Rosie he eventually applied to attend graduate school. He earned a Ph.D. degree in physiology and biochemistry from Georgetown University in 1967 and began working for the Roche Corporation in New Jersey, conducting research with psychiatric drugs. After 20 years at Roche, Dale and Rosie moved back to Kansas to be closer to their son and grandchildren. Shortly after arriving in Kansas, Dale met a psychiatrist on the faculty at the KU College of Medicine in Wichita. Together they established the Psychiatric Research Institute at St. Francis Regional Medical Center (now Via Christi). The job was a perfect fit, and he spent the next twenty years serving as the institute's director.

But Dale always had other interests as well. He did not want Rosie to become a "research widow." So they found non-science projects that they worked on together. In New Jersey, it was collecting and studying antique waterfowl decoys. In Kansas, the Horsts spent years studying the life and work of F. S. Church, a famous artist known for his art and illustrations. This resulted in an outstanding publication of a library quality book.

When asked what Dale

appreciates most about General Conference churches, and BCMC in particular, he responded that they "encourage and allow one to think and search." Dale is a prolific reader, often choosing books on theology. He noted that he developed a love for poetry at his grandfather's feet. Should we all be that lucky! We are all blessed by Dale's contributions as an outstanding worship leader. Dale, we all look forward to your continued involvement at BCMC! Happy 80th!

~ Emerson Wiens



Congratulations to Carol (Unruh) and Jerry Buller
50th Wedding Anniversary
February 11, 1966

BCMC Mission Quilters from 1961

Do you recognize any of the ladies in the picture at the top of the page?? If so, please let the BCMC Church office know.

According to a 1961 article in the *Hayward Daily*

Who are these quilters?



Review in Castro Valley, CA, the BCMC Mission Quilters "stuck to their stitches." Helen Bargaen of our congregation, found an article her mother-in-law, Esther Bargaen, had saved that was sent to Esther by one of Eldon Bargaen's cousins in California. The article is posted on the bulletin board in the BCMC library.

Quoting from the article: "The 17, known as the Mission Quilters, are among the few women in America dedicated to keeping alive the old time art of quilting. . . Their quilting goes on display each spring at the Mennonite *Folk Festival (sic)*. 'Our fingers are so calloused that a needle can't even prick them,' said one of the quilters. . . The North Newton women work for a penny an hour and charge approximately \$25 to complete a quilt measuring about 96 X 84 Inches. . . They use a quilting pattern called "Bear's Paw" which dates back to 1850. The tulip design they use is typically Mennonite. . . The most popular patterns are the flower garden and double wedding ring. . . they have two dozen customers on their waiting list."

The article went on to say that many writers believed there were no longer any quilting groups in existence, and thought the art had died forever. It goes on to say, "The mission quilters are grandmothers. To pass on the fine art they have made at least one

quilt for each granddaughter as a hope chest gift . . ."

It is clear that some 54 years later, the art of quilting has not died. There currently are about ten quilters with several retired members of the *North Newton Mission Quilters* of BCMC. They still make a quilt every year for the Mennonite Central Committee spring sale, and still generally have a list of people waiting for quilts to be quilted.

~ Karen Penner

Learning About Grief and Loss

Marie Snider, a member of our congregation, is an award-winning health writer and syndicated columnist. She has a column that appears in *The Newton Kansan* regularly, that she has been writing since her retirement from Prairie View in the early 1990s. Recently she shared what she is learning about grief and loss since the death of her husband, Howard. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2014 and their wedding picture appeared in the October-November 2014 issue of the *Kaleidoscope*. Howard died August 2, 2015. We share a few thoughts and quotes from Marie's recent article.

Years ago, Marie had the opportunity to inter-

Obituaries

Clinton C. Koppes **September 10, 1919 –** **November 25, 2015**

Clinton C. Koppes, 96, son of Daniel Atlee and Melinda Koppes, died Nov. 25, 2015 at Asbury Park, Newton. He is survived by his brother, Dean and wife Linda; three children: Clayton, of Cleveland, Ohio, Barbara Beal, of Glen Carbon, Illinois, and Duane, of Newton, and a granddaughter, Katherine Pruess, of Jamaica Plain, MA.

His wife, Effie, died in 2012. They had been married in 1944. Clinton graduated from Newton High School in 1937 and Bethel College in 1942. He served in Civilian Public Service during World War II. After farming with his parents, he worked as a pressman at the Mennonite Press for more than thirty years. He was a member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church.



Harriet Bunting Shirley **April 1, 1912—** **Dec. 13, 2015**

Harriet, 103, of Springfield, MO, was born in Wichita, KS to Frank and Gertrude (Haynes) Bunting. She graduated high school in Wichita, and earned an A.B. degree from Friends University in 1936, then studied at the University of Kansas from 1937-38 and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Emporia Teachers College in 1939. Harriet earned a Master degree from Colorado State College of Education. She also studied in South America, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Israel, Yugoslavia, England, Holland, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Mo-

rocco, Austria and Hungary. From 1938-1966, Harriet taught at many institutions, including, Santiago College, Santiago, Chile; Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, Indiana; Bethel College, North Newton; Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas; University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri; and Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri. In 1966, she joined the staff at Missouri State University as the Assistant Professor of English and retired as Professor Emeritus in 1982. She was a wider fellowship member of BCMC. Harriet was predeceased by her husband, George W. Shirley, in 2012.



Pastor's Corner— **Susan Wheeler**

Stepping into 2016 - I recall some highs and lows of 2015. Traveling with the Jerusalem Seminar class in January was a definite highlight. It provided a warm glow I continue to experience; often I find myself pondering some aspect of all that transpired within those tightly crammed three weeks. Then, a low for me came when the resignation of Heidi Regier Kreider was announced. Even though I heartily supported Heidi in accepting a new position within the Western District, I grieved the loss of an exceptional pastoral leader, one whom I have learned to respect as a friend and mentor. Plus, the thought of another very big transition within the pastoral staff was daunting. A highlight for me, however, was attending the Western District Assembly meetings where Heidi was installed as Conference Minister. I felt a distinct pride by association, but mostly joy in knowing the Spirit of God was moving and

doing new work in our midst. Earlier that same weekend I had found the Pastor's Day Apart event very moving. There, Neufeld brothers, Tom and Chuck, shared input and music. Canadian theologian Tom shared God's Word, humbly, yet so profoundly, in part due to his extensive study of the letter to the Ephesians (he is the writer of the *Believers Church Bible Commentary* on Ephesians). Chuck told stories and also sang to us about experiences close to his heart in life, as well as involving his work as Conference Minister in Illinois. He gave a CD gift to all attending and as I have listened to these songs, I find myself agreeing... from *Almost Everything*, "High and low; it's everywhere you go – fullness of life, it comes to you." The song goes on to say that we find this fullness only when we are willing to let go. I think, in part, this resonates with me because I have now entered the third, and final, stage of life...but I have also been learning in many different ways how to hold precious things lightly. This year I wrote a short Christmas letter surrounding three pictures; Lee and me in Petra, Jordon, and two with our three kiddos and a partner, both with grandson Julian in the middle. The complexity of our varied lives and stories stays in the background, but the beauty of this lovely Christmas paper, and the solidness of the verse at the bottom, Isaiah 30:15, "In quietness and trust is your strength," give witness to the goodness of God's grace and truth – found in every up and down. Thanks be to God.

view Elizabeth Kübler-Ross, author of the landmark book, *On Death and Dying*. While Marie knew about the five stages of grief intellectually as outlined in the book, it did not prepare her for the grief she felt in her soul, even though understanding them can help. The five stages are: Denial; Anger; Bargaining; Depression; and finally, Acceptance. While these five stages are universal for any severe loss, it is especially true after the death of someone close. They do not happen in order, but it is critical to someone grieving that acceptance be the LAST step.

For Marie, all the patterns of her life have to change, and she is developing new patterns. She now goes to exercise with her daughter instead of Howard, and has coffee every Thursday morning with her brother. They visit about their growing up years in Lewis County, New York, or catch up on what they each are doing. Sometimes she feels strangely angry – angry at the whole world! While she knew it was a stage of grief, she didn't expect it to be so free-floating, that can escape at any time. It is not anger against God or another person, just anger. It helps Marie to talk about her grief, and one of the BCMC pastors, Susan, has been very helpful.

Ultimately, each person must go through the grieving process alone. Each person must consciously experience the loss and understand the stages of grief which does help. Quoting Marie: "So, always remember death is part of life, and you can go on. In fact, you must. It's hard, but grief must eventually give way to life."

~ Karen Penner

Return service requested

Worship schedule *(Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org, for updates and details on worship and other events) Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted.*

January 3—Epiphany

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; special music by Sarunas Jankauskas, clarinetist and Mark Kreider, pianist

January 10

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Choir

3:00 p.m. Concert by the Sunflower Trio celebrating the life and work of Dr. J. Harold Moyer (1927-2012), long-time Professor of Music at Bethel College. The concert will feature the release of The Sunflower Trio's new recording *Reflections: The Music of J. Harold Moyer*. An offering will be taken to support the BCMC Organ Fund/Living Stones. C.D.s will be available for sale.

January 17

Worship with sermon by John Sharp, Hesston College History, Bible and Ministry faculty member; music by Chancel Bells.

January 24

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Choir.

January 31

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Junior Choir

11:45 a.m. Luncheon served by the Senior High Youth (fundraiser) in Fellowship Hall

12:45 p.m. Congregational meeting in the sanctuary

February 7

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Chancel Choir

February 10—Ash Wednesday

6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary

February 14—First Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Chancel Bells

February 21—Second Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by Open Road (Bethel College Men's a cappella group)

February 28—Third Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon to be announced; music by Junior Choir and Chancel Choir

Wednesday night suppers will be February 3 through March 9. More details will be coming.