

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

March— April 2016 10:2



Fire and Ashes

There is a tradition in many Christian churches of saving the Palm Sunday branches for burning and use at the next Ash Wednesday service. It's happened in the past at BCMC too.

This year, I worked with the Junior High Club sponsors, LuAnn Zook and Doug Siemens, and arranged for a time with the current students. I gathered them and had them stand in birth order—January to December. Then I told them of the liturgical calendar which starts in late November or early December with Advent and the December birthdays got to go to the front of the line! "Sweet!" The liturgical colors of purple for Advent, white for Christmas, green for ordinary time, purple for Lent, black for Good Friday, white for Easter, red for Pentecost and then green again for ordinary time were displayed on a color wheel. So what's your birth month and color? "I'm purple!" "I'm green!" We gathered the palm leaves and headed to the Columbarium plaza. It was dark. "So, where are you standing and what's behind you?" The students looked around. "Ashes", they said. It got quiet. My assistant, Alan Lepard, helped light the fire and whoosh, the dry leaves explod-

ed into a high flame! "Wow!" Each one put a stem on the fire and watched as large leaves disintegrated.

Back in the classroom, we talked about ashes and about the path that Jesus was taking in Lent. "I hate those ashes!" "Icky!" "I don't want any ashes on me!" "This is disgusting!" The reality of ashes, death and loss were all around. I packed up and bid them farewell. "May you walk with Jesus."

The next week, after the Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary, LuAnn invited me to bring the purple bulletins and the ashes to join the junior high students again.

This time, LuAnn, Doug and I all had ashes on our foreheads. We talked again about the meaning of Lent, the ashes and I invited any who wanted to have the ashes on their foreheads or hands to come and I would imprint them. It got quiet and all 10 students lined up and received the ashes.

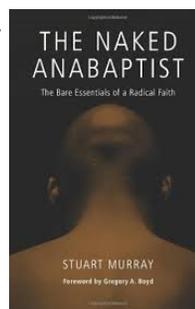
"Cool". ~ *Pastor Dorothy Nickel Friesen*



"Piano Class" in April

No, this is not about learning to play the piano—it's about a place to meet! This Faith Formation offering is especially for **those who are**

not a part of an existing adult Sunday school class—although anyone is welcome. The four-session offering (April 3, 10, 17, 24) is designed to be a place to gather for fellowship and discussion. The class will be based on the book, *The Naked Anabaptist* by Stuart Murray. Dorothy Nickel Friesen will be the facilitator/teacher—however, we intend discussion as well. The class will meet in the sanctuary near the piano. People need not register—just show up! It would be helpful to read the book or have it in hand for the sessions.



How well acquainted are you with the BCMC Library?

You are invited to take the following quiz.

1. Name the woodworker who remodeled library furniture to consolidate our computer, monitor, keyboard and printer system.
2. How long may you check out the current copy of *The Mennonite*?
3. Why is there no electrical outlet in the room where books for junior youth and children are kept?
4. The CD's and DVD's from Sunday morning worship are available for checkout. Where are they located?

5. In summer 2015 new shelves were added for children's books. What was used to make them?
6. Where would you find the Believers Church Bible Commentary on *Psalms*?
7. New books are displayed for two months. In January 2016 we put the 2014 books in the proper places according to the Dewey Decimal System. How many books were added to the library in 2014? a. 29; b. 59; c. 89; d. 119.
8. Seven books added in 2014 were checked out at least 15 times. The titles are: *Bars, Dumps and other Childhood Hangouts; Beautiful on the Mountain; How Starbucks Saved My Life; I Am Malala; The Personal History of Rachel Dupre; True Sisters; When I Fell from the Sky*. Which two books were checked out the most?
9. The annual award winning picture book for children is purchased each year. What is the name of the award?
10. More than 25 DVDs, movies and documentaries, are available for check-out. Have you, your SS class, or small group checked one out in the last two years?

Do you think the Library Committee will offer prizes? ~ *Norma Johnson, Library Committee chair*

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Pastoral Search Committee Report

The BCMC Lead Pastor Search Committee is hard at work reviewing Ministerial Leadership Information forms (MLIs), calling references, and praying without ceasing. There just might be a light at the end of the tunnel!
~ *Rosalind Andreas, chair*

Multiplying Loaves and Fishes

You are invited to a 5:30 p.m. celebration/benefit meal Saturday, March 19, at Bethel College Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. Students of the Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education program known as IBA, Instituto Biblico Anabautista of Mennonite Church USA, will be the recipients of the benefit. Each of the eight units of study cost \$100 per student. Pastor Jaime Cazarus currently has four students. The meal will be prepared and served by the 30 Conversational Spanish students from five congregations and Casa Betania friends supervised by Chef Carlos Lujano. The meal of salsa, chips, salad, smothered pork burritos, rice, beans and flan will be served. Testimonies from IBA students and music will follow the meal.

This fundraiser initiative of Witness Commission from BCMC is made possible by Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA Loaves and Fishes \$500 grant. The grant funds a teacher, Suhelen Cazares from Casa Betania, to teach Conversational Spanish. The registration fee of \$25 paid for study materials and groceries for the benefit meal. This assures that all donations will go for IBA scholarships. Checks may be payable to **Mennonite Education Agency**. In the memo line please indicate 'Casa Betania IBA Scholarships'. Thank you in advance

for your generosity in multiplying the loaves and fishes. **Sign-up by March 14** with Margaret Goering at 283-5034 or mrgoering@outlook.com Please indicate diet needs and considerations when signing up. ~ *Lois Preheim, Witness Commission Chair*

Harvey County Homeless Shelter Needs You!

In 2006 BCMC made a commitment to support the Harvey County Homeless Shelter (HCHS) with financial help as well as staffing with volunteers for a week every three months. BCMC members have served faithfully since then. Faith Mennonite Church shares the same week with BCMC. A number of our members can no longer serve and we are experiencing a need for more volunteers. What is involved in being a volunteer for HCHS? There are two shifts that need staffing. The two 5 p.m. to midnight volunteers arrive before the evening meal and help take care of the meal cleanup, then are available to visit with the residents. There is a HCHS staff person present until 8 p.m. At midnight, two volunteers arrive to serve until 8 a.m. They are present in case any needs arise during the nighttime hours, and they serve breakfast to the residents. One volunteer is allowed to sleep while the other remains awake. (There is a bed provided for this purpose.) Would you be willing to help fill one of these shifts?

Evening meals are also provided by our volunteers. Several BCMC Sunday school classes have committed to serving meals and find this a meaningful activity. Would your Sunday school class be willing to prepare and serve a meal?

Some of our longest

serving volunteers are Marlene Faul, who helped out at HCHS even prior to BCMC's commitment there, Louise and Carl Thieszen, Donna and Harry Neufeld, Ted Mueller, Frank Nachtigal, Glen Ediger, Marilyn Harrold, and Margaret Hiebert. Other regular volunteers are Omer Galle and Fritz and Margaret Toews. Liz Friesen and Ben Lichti have served as meal coordinators. Ilene Schmidt has coordinated many meals for HCHS but has asked to be relieved of this after many years of service. Pastor John Tyson is also involving the youth in serving a meal there. Please talk with these folks about their experiences at HCHS. They will, no doubt, share the rewarding experiences they get from their service. HCHS staff and residents very much appreciate the service given. And the potential for our lives to be enriched by this experience is significant as well.

Evening and night volunteers are advised to attend a short orientation prior to their serving.

Please consider helping to fill this important need to replace those who can no longer serve. Our commitment to HCHS involves much more than financial help, although that is also needed. If you have questions, contact Valetta Seymour: vmseymour@mtelco.net. Or 620-345-2733.

~ *Valetta Seymour*

Three Generations of Extended Family Have Been Part of Playschool

This continues our series of articles written by Melanie Zuercher (Shalom Mennonite Church) on Community Playschool's 50th Anniversary!

It started with volleyball. This was about 50 years ago, give or take. Yolanda Garcia was a young mother in Newton who heard about a

preschool from some women with whom she played volleyball. She decided to enroll her daughter, Maria. Maria's granddaughter is now the third generation in her family to attend Community Playschool, which meets in the basement of Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton and is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016.

Yolanda "spoke with a lady that ran the playschool," says Maria (Garcia) Avila. "She mentioned it to others at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Newton, so others started going, too. She got the church to start donating money to help buy the cookies to give to the kids." It was decades ago, so Maria doesn't remember a lot from her playschool days. But here's what she does recall: "I remember the wooden play equipment" – it's still there in the classroom. "It was always fun to come and play with the other kids. My teacher was Mary Ann Jost. I liked the cooking. I came for two years, then I started school." In time, Maria had two small daughters, Jasmin and Marina. "Since I went here [to playschool], I put my girls in here, so they would experience getting to know the basics, and having friends and learning to share. I wanted them to have the same experiences I had. You learn a lot of different things that help in getting you ready for school."

Maria retained some of her playschool experiences when she ran her own small day-care business for a short while, she says. "I did some of the activities that I'd done as a playschooler – making necklaces out of macaroni, things like that." Jasmin (Avila) Blocher was followed by her younger sister, Marina, at Community Playschool. "I don't know if it was my first or my second year – or maybe it was when Marina was here – they built the boat

to put the bicycles in,” she says. The boat-shaped shed is also a play structure in the playground behind the church. “My favorite thing was peeling and coring apples to make applesauce. I remember totally adoring Bonnie (Krehbiel, a long-time playschool director who retired several years ago)—I still do. “I remember my grandma and grandpa coming to school to sing Mexican songs. “We always celebrated Cinco de Mayo at playschool,” Maria adds, “so one year when Marina was here, Mom and Dad, Marcelo and Yolanda Garcia, came and brought the organ and maracas. They played and sang Mexican songs and we had mini-tostadas with cheese, beans and salsa.” Now Jasmin has two little girls (with a third child on the way). “I knew for sure I was going to send them somewhere,” she says. “My husband didn’t go to preschool, so he didn’t have an opinion about where to send them. We looked here and at one other. I have a special place in my heart for this place. I wanted that same experience for my kids.” She adds, “There’s a really good classroom size, a good student-to-teacher ratio. The smaller setting means the kids get the most out of it they can.”

Gabi Blocher represents the third generation of Community Playschool students in her extended family. Her little sister, Isabelle, is itching to join her. Isabelle will be old enough in the

fall, says Jasmin. “She does the hand-washing song and sings ‘Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.’ Her potty training is going well, so I’ve started saying, ‘You’re going to get to go to school with Gabi.’” Gabi, for her part, likes going to playschool because she gets to see her friends, “especially Kinley and Madison.” She also sees cousins, since several are currently playschool students.

“This past summer, when people were calling, it seems like a lot of parents were saying they had gone here, too,” says Jeanette Leary, current Community Playschool director. “This year, there are five children who are the second generation.” She continues, “Sometimes I talk to people who don’t know there’s a playschool here and have never heard of it, even though it’s 50 years old. I think it’s because we’ve never really advertised. It’s been by word of mouth.”

“I never looked for another preschool for my kids,” says Maria. “It was the only one I knew about.”

“The original point was to start a preschool for families with a limited income, who couldn’t afford a regular preschool,” says Jeanette. “It started the same year as Headstart did nationally, so it was ahead of its time. Our clientele has changed some since the high-risk, special-needs and Headstart programs opened at Cooper Early Learning Center in Newton. We fill in some of the gaps between those programs and some of the other full paying programs in town.”

~ Melanie Zuercher

Sister Care: Equipping Women for Caring Ministry



Carolyn Holderread Heggen and Rhoda Shenk Keener, resource persons from Mennonite Women USA, led 73 women in *Claiming our Identity as God’s Beloved, Caring for Self and Others, Compassionate Listening, and Transforming Loss and Grief* on January 29-30 at BCMC. It was an amazing experience for eleven members from BCMC (Carol Buller Marlene Ewert, Marlene Faul, Jeanette Leary, Carol Peters, Elizabeth Raid, Vada Snider, Alice Suderman, Louise Thieszen, Barb Voran, and Lois Reimer). This group has met, is partnered with each other, and is seeking ways to incorporate caring at a higher level for women at BCMC.

~ Marlene Faul

Happy 80th Birthday Eldine Harder!



Eldine Franz Harder was born January 21, 1936 at Grace Hospital in

Hutchinson, Kansas. She had two older brothers, Le Roy and Delton. Le Roy, unfortunately was severely injured during a difficult birth. Delton, born one year later, became Le Roy’s guardian angel. Grandma Siemens came to help with an injured child and a newborn. The family was very active in the Buhler Mennonite Church of which Eldine has very fond memo-

ries. She was baptized by Rev. Henry Franzen, June 4, 1951. During high school days she played the alto clarinet performing in a clarinet quartet all four years, sang in Robert Senner’s choir (from whom Eldine took voice lessons) and sang in three small choral groups. She attended Bethel College for three years attaining an associate degree in art. Eldine sang in Dr. Hohman’s choir and was his soprano soloist. Dr. Hohman approached her about going to Europe with his choir. The choir was in Europe June, July and August, getting home just before college was to begin. After graduation, Eldine worked for three years as a cashier and insurance clerk at Bethel Deaconess Hospital. At Bethel College, she met Paul Harder and they were married June 9, 1959 by Eldine’s brother Rev. Delton Franz and Paul’s father, Rev. Henry N. Harder. The still-born birth of their first child (Timothy Scott) was very painful and heart-breaking. In those days the hospital would not allow parents to see their still-born child, nor could Eldine attend the memorial service because of a long hospital stay. Later, Eldine and Paul were blessed with three children, Susan, Scott and Kay.

They moved to Kansas City in 1971 where Paul became a registered patent agent (wrote patents). After their third child, Kay, was in kindergarten, Eldine started a degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse at KU Medical Center. For 1 ½ years Eldine accompanied by her beloved dachshund “Fritz” studied until after midnight. The family had three dachshunds and two litters. Their long haired dogs were unusual for the breed and LaVern and Marilyn Epp bought one for their first pet of the family. In the following years Eldine worked for Shawnee Mission Hospital. In Newton, from the late 1970s until 2000, she worked as an



Pictured are Maria (Garcia) Avila (ballcap), Jasmin Blocher, and Jeanette Leary, Playschool director

office nurse. She continues to volunteer at Newton Medical Center in surgery waiting.

Music and art are a large part of Eldine's life. Her third and fourth grade teacher was an artist and taught the class to draw and shade, etc. Eldine has received many blue ribbons, but her first blue ribbon was for painting with five different mediums. The prize was a "Pink Short" ball point pen. Ball point pens had just come out and this pen was a treasure to the young Eldine. Her artist talents have spilled over into the Newton community. She decorated rooms at the Warkentine House for the "Five Places of Christmas" for many years and served on the Warkentine House Board for two terms. Her water colors currently are on display at the Carriage Factory Gallery as well as several area businesses. Her water color cards are sold at the Carriage Factory Gallery, the Bethel College Bookstore and Kauffman Museum. She also has been a Toile and Decorative painter. She enjoys quilting having made eight baby quilts for her grandchildren. She was encouraged to submit a queen sized quilt to the Kansas State Fair and it won a purple "Best of Show" and a blue ribbon. Paul and Eldine enjoy antique furniture and have acquired pieces from their parents and grandparents and from antique auctions in the area. These pieces along with Eldine's artistic touches grace their Victorian style home in North Newton. She is also an avid flower gardener specializing in roses. Eldine and Paul started attending BCMC during college days, and she continues to appreciate the worship services, especially the music. She has sung in the Newton Chorale, Masterworks Chorus, Treble Clef Choir and continues in the BCMC Chancel Choir. Eldine has been a member of BCMC since 1959 and in addition to the Chancel Choir was involved in a pre-school Sunday

school class for 35 years with Blanche Spaulding and Gladys Esau. (They all decided to retire together since they were a team!); leader for Mini Beths (high school girls' club); Vacation Bible School; Education Commission; Women's Fellowship; Decoration Committee. While serving on the church Decoration Committee she initiated the volunteering of crocheting of ornaments that continue to be used on the BCMC Christmas tree. During retirement years she and Paul enjoyed RV excursions to Texas with Marlin and Deane Frey. Eldine and Paul traveled to the Mennonite World Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba and have enjoyed many other trips. Her favorite Bible verses include her baptism verses, Romans 10:9-10, and Psalms 121. Her favorite hymns are *Children of the Heavenly Father* and *O have you not heard of that beautiful stream*. When Eldine reflects on her life, she sees how God has blessed her, even through the difficult times. Happy Birthday Eldine!
~ Elizabeth Raid

Happy 12th Birthday Emma Claassen!



Just as the weather begins to warm up, Emma Claassen will be ready to spring forward into

her twelfth birthday! (March 7) Emma is another member of the energetic and precocious group of students in the Junior High Club at BCMC. She enjoys spending time with her fellow peers on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Emma especially enjoyed the clubs' recent trip to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp's "Snow Camp" in January to enjoy a

time of worship, learning, and activities together! She also loves participating in Menno Ringers and Junior Choir.

Emma is a committed young learner. She currently is a sixth grade student at Santa Fe Middle School. Her favorite subjects are social studies and science, where she is currently focusing on ancient Greek civilization and the periodic table respectively. Emma also is moving into her second year of clarinet and loves playing in band. Emma is growing into a great young leader. She is active in 4-H club, where she serves as the vice-president. She also enjoys showing goats as well as entering photography and drawings into the fair. Rumor has it that she recently received a Purple ribbon for some of her entries!

For a young person, Emma has a well-developed understanding of health and nutrition. She enjoys playing active games outside and on the jungle gym at home. When it's time to take a break, she gravitates toward healthy snacks, especially apples, pears, and grapes. Her favorite meal is a salad. In fact, she hopes to transition into a vegetarian within the next few years.

Emma's understanding of health extends into creation care. She wants to practice good stewardship of resources. She dreams of becoming an engineer so that she "can create a CO2 car that will produce oxygen instead of carbon dioxide." However, she may need to start on this project soon. She loves to travel with her family, but worries that "the car keeps breaking down." Fortunately, the Claassen family was able to enjoy a vacation to Mount Rushmore last summer. "It was a really cool thing to see!"

Emma is a lively spirit who brings a great deal of positive energy to all of her endeavors. The BCMC community wishes you a happy birthday, Emma! ~ John Tyson

Happy 80th Birthday Larry Penner!



Larry was born on March 11, 1936, and raised in Hillsboro, Kansas. His parents, Paul and Brunhilda

"Toots" (Auernheimer) Penner lived across the street from Tabor College where Larry recalls many an enjoyable hour playing with other "Tabor campus kids" in the Tabor College park. He is six years older than his only sibling, Mary Elizabeth Beck, Minot, ND. Paul was a plumber and electrician and Toots kept the home-fires burning until her untimely death in 1975. His dad remarried Katherine Hiebert, who became a beloved family member for 37 years - she died at age 100. The family attended First Mennonite Church in Hillsboro where Larry was baptized by the Rev. H. T. Unruh.

Larry was always involved in sports and participated fully in basketball, football, and track events at Hillsboro High School, graduating in 1954, where he earned eleven sports letters. Although a good student his first love was sports! He attended Bethel College, and admits it was "primarily to play sports!" Here he earned eleven sports letters as well, and as a senior was named KCAC All Conference in both football and basketball. Academics were completed and he obtained a degree in business in 1958. He married Karen Suderman at Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren church in rural Hillsboro on September 1, 1957, just before his senior year.

After six months active duty with the Army Reserves he began work at the Hesston Corporation in 1959 - a job lasting 39 1/2 years. First, he was in the accounting department, then moved to data processing, on to

marketing and sales, and ended in manufacturing in charge of production planning.

Retirement came the fall of 1998. Retirement has meant quality time in the great outdoors, another of his passions. He wanted nothing more than to see his bird dog point a covey of quail! Hunting, fishing, and playing golf (three holes-in-one!) have been deeply satisfying activities. These days he finds that heading out with his fishing pole to Aulne, in Marion County, to sit on the banks of the little Suderman pond feels just about right. He also loves hunting wild turkeys in spring and fall, just hoping he isn't sitting in poison ivy as he sneaks into the dark field early in the morning.

Larry and Karen are blessed with two children, Diana Reaume, Superintendent of Quillayute Valley School District of Forks, WA and Murray, Executive Director of NASTAD, a non-profit public health organization in Washington D.C. They have much joy spending time with three precious teenaged grandchildren. Activities at BCMC and Bethel College have been an important part of their lives. Larry and Karen currently serve as Sunday School treasurers and Larry is an usher. Psalm 54, "But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life," carries significance, and the hymns, *Amazing Grace* and *How Great Thou Art*, are favorites. Larry, as you celebrate your 80th birthday this March 11, my prayer is for the presence and love of God to surround you - perhaps like a hunter who waits for dawn!

~ Susan Wheeler

Happy 80th Birthday Aldine Sprunger!



Aldine Slagell Sprunger was born on April 21, 1936 in Bloomington, Illinois to Harvey and Bernadine Slagell.

She had one sister. Her father was of Mennonite background, but after marriage he joined the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in Flanagan, Illinois where her mother was a member. When she was about 11 years old she was baptized in the Eureka Christian Church after two years of catechism and became a member of the church.

Her school years were spent in Flanagan and Eureka, Illinois, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, West Suburban Hospital School of Nursing, Oak Park and Wheaton College. Right after graduation in 1959 she was married to Keith Sprunger in the First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana. As a registered nurse she was employed in a doctors' office in Berne, and at Carle Clinic in Urbana, Illinois when Keith was in grad school.

After moving to Kansas in 1963 they lived in Leisy Home for a time, then at their present location on 2412 College Avenue. She stayed at home with small children, and later worked as the school nurse at Bethel College for several years, then at Bethel Home for the Aged, and later at Kidron-Bethel.

Three children were born to Aldine and Keith; David, Mary and Philip, all college professors, and Philip now in administration. Their homes

are in North Dakota, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. There are seven grandchildren, three girls and four boys. Aldine has been a faithful member of Bethel College Mennonite Church, serving as Bible School and Sunday school teacher, has had a number of roles in Women's Fellowship, was a deacon, and is now co-chair of the funeral committee.

She enjoys traveling, visiting family and friends, reading, and cooking. Volunteer roles include working at the Et Cetera Shop, helping with the Newton Public Library Enlite program which furnishes large print books to Kidron-Bethel.

Congratulations, Aldine on your 80th birthday. May you have many more years of life ahead.

Writer's note: Aldine shared a book that her children created for their 55th anniversary featuring family history, photos and many recipes of Aldine's and her children. It is obvious that a great family bond was made from their many family travels, and enjoying good food prepared by Aldine.

~ Lois Goertzen



Congratulations Jill (Westerlin) and Nathan Kaufman on 25 years of marriage! (March 17, 1991)

With Our Members



In a church our size we often miss learning to know individuals. This was the case for me in visiting with

Anne (Neufeld) Rupp. She has a rich life, and I found her to be very personable as she told her story. Focusing in one segment of her life, let me tell you about her writing experiences. On page 26 of *Hymnal A Worship Book* is "Holy Spirit, come with power". In 1970 at the encouragement of her husband Ken who was doing a sermon on Pentecost, she created the lyrics based on Acts 1:8. At that time these words were sung with another tune, but later set to music with this hymn tune composed in 1844. Acts 1:8 says: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth". (RSV) Anne attributes the Holy Spirit working within her which gave direction to these lyrics. The lyrics she wrote were used as a poem in a leaders' guide for Sunday school curriculum. She created songs for children, and had other accomplishments along the way. Other denominations have asked to use this hymn in their churches - Anglican Church in Canada, Covenant Church, and Quakers. She has received many phone calls inquiring about the use of the hymn.

Anne grew up in Manitoba, Canada. She attended a couple colleges in Canada, on to Bethel, and AMBS where she met Ken. After their marriage they served churches including one in Middlebury, IN, Beatrice, NE and Kansas City. She was not an ordained minister but was encouraged by her husband to do an occasional

sermon along the way. A quote from Anne which concluded our interview: “We need to remember that the Holy Spirit works in all of us each and every day”. ~ *Lois Goertzen*
Editor’s note: What a delight it was to visit with Anne. She has a rich story to tell, and I would encourage you to make her acquaintance if you haven’t already. She moved to Kidron Bethel in 2010 following Ken’s death. She has one son who lives in Wichita.

The Leopard Family



Every Sunday you will see Alan and Sheri walk up the aisle toward the front

of the church with sons Nicholas, age 13, and Markus, age 10. This will soon change, as Alan is excited in accepting a new position in the Toledo metro area of Ohio, as Council Program Director of the Boy Scouts Erie Shores Council on Lake Erie. In Wichita he has been the Council Program Director of the Quivera Council. He will be leaving on February 28. Sheri and the boys will remain in Valley Center until this summer. Even though his title has not changed, his work will, as his staff, the number of campers and his budget responsibility will double in size. Another bonus is that he will be near his parents and extended family, who live within an hour from Toledo. Sheri is looking forward to the move and being near Alan’s family. She is an Intervention Specialist (Special Education Teacher) at the Valley Center Middle School, and is submitting applications for a similar position in the Toledo area. While she will miss her family, she and Alan agree they are making an exchange from

being near her extended family to being close to his. Sheri’s parents live in McPherson, and her immediate and extended family are near, including Ron and Lavonne Sawatzky of BCMC. So how did the young man from Ohio, a graduate of Bluffton University, end up in Kansas? Alan came to Wichita in 1998 for a Voluntary Service assignment at Mennonite Housing. He met Sheri at Hope Mennonite Church where she was attending with several fellow Bethel College graduates. They were married in 2000, and while a carpenter, Alan became a part-time youth pastor at Lorraine Avenue Church for a short term. When that position ended, he left the carpentry profession and became youth pastor at Faith Mennonite Church in Newton for three years. At Thanksgiving in 2004, they began attending BCMC. Nicholas, age two, would go to the nursery, and Frank and Kathy Stucky became friends and were very instrumental in the Leopards choosing BCMC as their church home. Sheri’s grandparents, Henry and Edna Goossen, were also members at BCMC, which was another pull for them.

Both Sheri and Alan are clear that church is an important part of their life. They desire to instill in their sons the importance of attending church every Sunday, to feed their souls, and encourage them to intentionally lis-

ten and feel the Spirit. Alan has taught the Middle School Sunday School, Grades 6-8, for ten of the eleven years they have been at BCMC. Sheri learned about “Activity Bags” when she was on the Western District Executive Board for six years, and felt this would be a great thing for young children to have during the worship service. She was the originator of the activity bags, and made them and purchased a variety of supplies for the bags. She has also served on the Library Committee.

Both boys are very involved with sports – Markus plays soccer in the fall and spring, and baseball in the summer. He is also a Webelos Scout. He qualified for some college scholarship dollars through his Boy Scout popcorn sales! Nicholas played football this past fall, will participate in track and field this spring, and baseball in summer. He is a Second Class Scout. Nicholas and his dad Alan have applied to attend the Asian Scout Jamboree at Mongolia in July of 2017. Reflections:
 * Markus loves making crafts in Bible School, and is very engaged when sitting in the balcony with his “Uncle” Ron Sawatzky, helping with the public address system.
 * Nicholas says it’s been fun going to BCMC, and he enjoys Venture Club, Junior High Club, Bell Choir and the Junior Choir.
 * Sheri shares this has been a very good church home, and she has made many friends,

and met many good people.
 * Alan wants to say *Thank You* to all Middle School youth he has taught, and for the times they have *learned from each other* about faith and life. Each student contributed in a variety of ways.
 Alan and Sheri, we will miss your presence at BCMC as you move into this new world, as well as Nicholas’ smile and Markus’ exuberance. We send our love and prayers with you. May God lead you to a new church home so you can continue to grow in your faith.
 ~ *Karen Penner*

Congratulations to



Glen Ediger who was featured recently in a couple area papers for his accomplishments with Vornado air movement equipment.



Adam Robb, Moundridge High School science and math teacher, who was chosen as a semi-finalist for the prestigious Wolfe Teaching Excellence Award administered by the University of Kansas. Nominations for this award come from KU seniors who want to recognize a high school teacher who has encouraged and positively influenced them to dream, aspire and persevere.

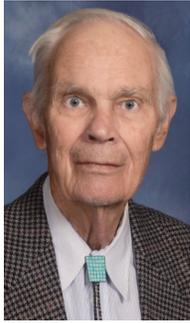


Jeanette Leary, director of Community Play-school for receiving the United Way Certificate of Appreciation for “Partner Organization Distinguished Service to the Harvey County United Way in 2015.”



All ten members of BCMC’s Junior High Group went to Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, January 22-24. Here they pose in front of the bus with the bus driver!

Obituary



Stanley Emerson Voth
August 14, 1924
February 6, 2016
 Stanley E. "Stan" Voth 91, died Feb. 6 at Kidron Bethel Village. He was born in Kai Chow, Hopei Province, China, to William

C. and Matilda (Kliewer) Voth. Stan went to Mission Schools in China and graduated from Newton High School in 1942. From 1943 to 1946 he served in Civilian Public Service. He graduated from Bethel College in 1949 and later earned a Master's Degree in Chemistry from Northern Iowa University. He married Elsie Epp of Henderson, NE in 1950, then taught in schools in Freeman, SD, Milford and Henderson, NE, retiring to North Newton in 1987. His wife Elsie died in 1990 after which he married Viola Ediger in 1992. She preceded him in death on Aug. 11, 2015. Stan is survived by a son, Timothy (Carolyn [Rich]); daughter Debra Voth (husband Ken Gaeddert); brother Leland Voth; two sisters: Maurine Regehr and Helen Bertrand; seven grandchildren: Rachel (husband Samuel) Voth Schrag, Michael (wife Aimee) Voth Siebert, Andrew Voth and Lee and Jesse Voth -Gaeddert; as well as one great grandson, Jonah Voth Schrag. He is preceded in death by two wives, his parents and siblings: Winifred and Homer and a grandson William Rich Voth. Stan was a longtime active member of Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton where he was the church archivist.

Emerson Wiens wrote this poem following Martin Luther King Jr. day in memory of Brown's and other similar deaths since.

Pastor's Corner— John Tyson



"The only constant in youth ministry is change," whispered a friend and experienced youth worker as we engaged in quiet conversation amidst the traffic flowing through the hotel hallway. I was expressing to her some things that I had been encountering relating to youth as a pastor that I couldn't quite get a handle on. Her words were simple and seemingly obvious, but they captured something that has followed me home from Orlando, where I was able to spend a weekend learning from youth workers across Mennonite Church USA. Pastoral ministry to youth and young people isn't about enduring change so that you can eventually land in a place of stability and certitude, but rather it's about embracing the Spirit of God at work *in the change itself*. And this should be obvious, right? Youth change, develop, and grow at a back-breaking pace. New questions, new ideas, new interests, new attitudes, new relationships are filtered through the lives of persons between ages 14 – 23

HE WAS EIGHTEEN

He was eighteen and black, hangin' out in Ferguson, mindin' his own business, saw the bubble-top car approach, heard shouting behind him.

He could run no faster. The shots began. A warm feeling was flowing down his side.

on a weekly basis and identities are reshaped constantly. A student who was baptized at sixteen questions her faith as she enters a new religion course in her second semester of freshman year. A son who always seemed destined to pursue a life in the city suddenly decides to return home with some innovative ideas for the family farm. A fourteen year old basketball prodigy abruptly quits the team to spend more time honing his photography passion. The examples are endless, but the reality is the same: the only constant is change.

I have to confess that, despite being only a few years past this stage of development, I had forgotten how fast identity change can occur in the lives of many youth and young adults. Perhaps, that's because this period of rapid change can produce a hefty share of stress and worry, and so when we're personally past it, we clear our memory of it. Yet I'm learning to see that it is essential to fully embrace the reality of constant change as I seek to be pastoral presence to youth and young adults.

I'm also learning to see the Spirit of God at work in the process of change. Theologians, such as James Fowler, have historically viewed faith formation as a process of developmental growth that corre-

sponds to our various life stages. For example, Fowler suggests that students in their latter teenage years begin to think outside the "box" that they've been handed by their family and faith community of origin. This is a good and natural thing. It also entails that a person is entering a time where their faith perspective will likely shift, change, and, hopefully, grow deeper. Interestingly, for Fowler, the next stage after this time of moving beyond the "box" isn't a plateau or point of stability; it's the stage where we come to embrace the only constants in life: mystery, uncertainty, and change. At first glance, this sounds unpleasant, but instead it may be something we can slowly embrace. After all, we worship a God who, as the writer of Philippians contends, has begun a good work in all of us – as individuals and as a congregation – and the work isn't finished. We're never done growing and we're never done changing. God is also never done with us. God is with us *in the change itself* even when that means embracing the twists and turns of our high school years, embracing new dynamics in the youth group, or embracing the challenges of being the church for a new era.

"We're not there, yet," King had said fifty years ago, The young man staggered, saw the pavement rising.

"Why?" he cried. "I have no weapon!" "We're not there, yet," the quiet voice repeated.

He lay motionless in the growing pool of crimson.

His grandmother had said he would be famous some day. Everybody would know his name.

She saw him on the evening news. He was eighteen.

— Emerson Wiens

Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot and killed on Aug. 9, 2014, by Darren Wilson, a white police officer, in Ferguson, MO., a suburb of St. Louis. The shooting prompted protests that roiled the area for weeks. On Nov. 24, the St. Louis County prosecutor announced that a grand jury decided not to indict Mr. Wilson. The announcement set off another wave of protests. In March, the Justice Department called on Ferguson to overhaul its criminal justice system, declaring that the city had engaged in constitutional violations.

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.

March 6—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Liz Schrag
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3,
11b-32

March 13—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Karen Andres; music by Chancel Choir
and Junior Choir
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 20—Palm Sunday

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by
Chancel Bells
Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm
31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11

March 27—Easter

**Sunrise service at Hank and Elaine Prouty's, 332 N. Hoover
Road, Newton—time to be announced**
Worship begins at 10 a.m.

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by
Chancel Choir— **No Sunday school**
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:19-26;
John 20:1-18

April 3—Eastertide

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by
Chancel Choir and Junior Choir
Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

April 10—Eastertide

Worship with sermon by John Tyson; music by Bethel College
a cappella groups Open Road and Woven; prelude by Chancel
Bells
Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

April 17—Eastertide

Worship with sermon by Dorothy Nickel Friesen; music by
Chancel Choir
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

April 24—Creation Care Sunday

Worship planned by the Creation Care Committee; music by
Menno Ringers and Cherub Choir
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
11:45 a.m. Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall
12:45 p.m. Congregational meeting in the Sanctuary

March/April Western District Conference events

- **Mar 12, 2016**
Kansas Leadership Center training follow-up (8:30 am-12 pm)
Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston KS
- **Mar 17, 2016**
Women's Spring Supper
Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston KS
- **Mar 22, 2016**
WDC Church Planting Commission meeting
- **Apr 15, 2016**
WDC Ministerial Leadership Commission Meeting
- **Apr 23, 2016**
Spring Reference Council: "Held Together in Mission:
Being Church in the Rural Context" (9 am-3 pm)
First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, Nebraska