

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

July — August 2019 13:4



Pastor's Corner with Susan Jantzen

Last summer, about a month after beginning my bridge pastor work at

represented for me and our community.

The unfolding transition in our church life carries similar themes to this end of Rupert's life and the blossoming of another family unit, snug and lively under the rafters of his old home. It is true – now in my sixties, so quickly and surely, cherished people and valuable congregational memories flee away. Yet at the same time, from the perspective of BCMC Bridge Associate Pastor for Faith Formation I see with great clarity the strength and “pluck” of new ways, new things, new ages of people and new vision already reshaping this congregation. The ways of saying yes to congregational life and faithful discipleship are strong and more varied than ever in our midst. I believe this means good things.

Days ahead will not be simple in our community or in our world. *Church* remains, for me, the entity, the “body” through which I will give, act and live with meaning in these coming days. But the church will not be “my” past church in look or behavior. Just as I have slow-

ly released Rupert and his gracious home, I am ready to say good bye to richness of memory within the church that gave me so much. I see clearly that God's house is already filled with new generations. And while things are changing, the action for us will not be one of backing away from involvement, purpose and meaning. Those of us in the second half of our life (according to Richard Rohr wisdom) step forward and ask of these generations -- what is YOUR idea? What were YOU hoping could happen here? As people in our sixties and older here at BCMC, we can ask those in the first half of their lives – given the resources of my age and stage, given the richness life has given me, how can I also open a space for YOUR God-given call to flourish more deeply, more faithfully?

As a faith community you have strongly indicated you are ready to release a certain past way in order to move into new days. I bless you and your new staff team in this new time. Though I will not be among you, I will be with you in spirit in the journey of release, in the welcoming of new energy and activity to God's people. May this open and curious behavior among us only add to God's ongoing joy and presence here on earth.

Thank you, BCMC staff and congregation!
Your warmth and sincerity of spirit has been a great gift to us!
Special thanks to Marg and Fritz Toews for your graciousness.

Susan and Jim Jantzen

Who Cares About Climate Change?

Five years ago, heading toward a Camp Mennoscah meeting, an unanticipated but strong thought came to me: *if God would ever “speak” to Mennonites about climate change, it would be at Camp Mennoscah.* The thought prompted me to write a Camp Mennoscah poem. This spring, the same thought prompted me to attend a pastor's retreat at camp, “Who Cares About Climate Change? Pastoral Responses to Denial and

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Despair.”

Due to the vision and financial gift of one person, this two-day retreat has gathered pastors across the Mennonite church -- in and of itself modeling the impacts our “actions” can have. To date, about 60 pastors and church leaders have attended this resource event in four locations across the nation, with a fifth event now planned in Oregon.

Learnings? One: we saw research indicating a high awareness and concern for the issue of climate change in the nation and among Mennonites but low levels of knowing how to talk about the issue, low levels of knowing what efficacious action would look like.

Two: one presenter taught us to become specific as to how values guide our climate change stance so that we can move from silence to communication. Further, the same presenter taught us to imagine and listen for the values of people at *different* positions on the climate change issue. We were urged to remember if we are highly “charged,” we may not be the messenger needed to visit with those of a different perspective. There is such variety of values among us, it could be that a different person might communicate more effectively with a different perspective. Conversations must happen. Making them as effective as possible is crucial.

Three: Rachel Myslivy from climateandenergy.org gave us the Top Ten Reasons for HOPE in Kansas,

introducing many Kansas groups working on climate change issues.

Four: Retreat Co-leader Doug Kaufman explored Denial and Despair. Feelings: psychic numbing, distance, helplessness, guilt, grief, anger, fear, hope. The way forward: name loss and tragedy that already exists. Honor our pain as work in the tragedy that is already all around us. Offer community services of grief, process in silence and in verbal sharing. Giving profound grief its due, some may see with new eyes what is ours to actively do. Doug is an Indiana pastor and director of pastoral ecology for the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions and Mennonite Creation Care Network.

Five: Co-Leader Jennifer Halteman Schrock led three worship services, weaving worshipful presence of God in community with data sessions and sessions of processing feelings. Jennifer serves as staff at the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center in Indiana as well as Mennonite Creation Care Network.

Six: Pre-retreat reading included Panu Pihkala’s Eco-Anxiety, Tragedy, and Hope: Psychological and Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change. Pihkala communicated a number of helpful points, among them naming Paul Tillich as an early “ecoth theologian” who spoke about deep grief and the right to hope.

Much more is available to be shared. Contact Pastor Dawn or myself for information.

~ Susan Jantzen



Beyond Denial and Despair By Dawn Yoder Harms

The pastors’ retreat at Camp Mennoscah focusing on climate change sounded like a wonderful opportunity. Yet, it was difficult deciding to extricate myself from business at home to spend time away pondering a depressing and seriously frightening issue that has no easy solutions. In the end, I chose to participate, and I am very glad I did.

The retreat reinforced some things I already knew: **climate change is already happening**, and it is already impacting human health, water and food supplies, ecosystems, migration and civil conflict all over the world.

I heard in a new way that **climate change is a justice issue**. Those in our world contributing the lowest amount of CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere are the ones who are ultimately most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, while those contributing the most CO₂ emissions will be the least impacted.

And I heard in a new way that **climate change is a theological issue**. I left thinking about how our human-centered view of the world, supported by a human-centered theology, has contributed to the climate crisis we are experiencing. One evening, during worship under a starlit sky, we were each invited to pray for one of Kansas’ threatened or endangered species. That invitation reminded me that all of us—plants, animals (including humans), earth, air, water—make up a community called into being by God, a commu-

nity whose members are created to care for, protect, and sustain each other.

Human beings have clearly not fulfilled their responsibility in this interdependent web of relationships. Scientific evidence indicates that human activity has contributed to a warming trend in our climate that, since the mid 20th century, “is proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented over decades to millennia.” <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services reports that as a result of this climate warming, around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, *more than ever before in human history*. <https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>.

How might we, as people of faith, respond? As members of this interdependent community created by God, what do we need to do to fulfill our responsibility to ensure the well-being of all its members?

We need to mitigate climate change by significantly reducing our human-induced carbon footprint. This challenge extends far beyond our own personal choices to live more sustainably. Yet we were reminded at our retreat that **all action directed toward this end, even small steps, matter**.

In this spirit, BCMC’s Creation Care Committee will be initiating the *Climate Change Challenge* beginning this fall, with the goal of offering us a

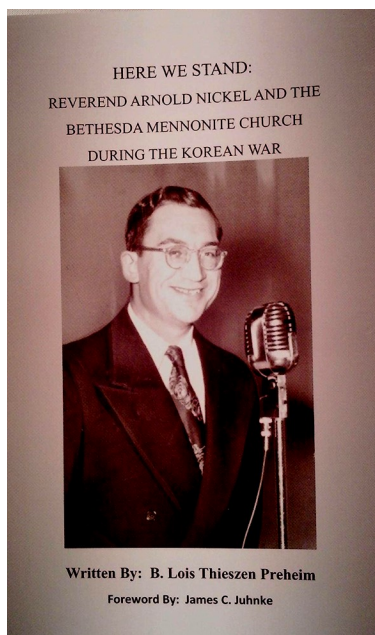
new challenge each month: a small, measurable, doable action that people of all ages in our congregation can practice at home, school, work, or at church. We hope this experience helps us all learn more as we practice the values of our faith.

(Creation Care Committee members: Kathy Stucky, Lorna Harder, Doug Harms, Dave Kreider, and staff liaison Dawn Yoder Harms)



Image from ipbes Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

BOOK REVIEW: *Here We Stand: Rev. Arnold Nickel and the Bethesda Mennonite Church during the Korean War* by B. Lois Thieszen Preheim



Lois Preheim was 10 years old and her older brother was in high school in the 1950s when 28-year-old Rev. Arnold Nickel became their new pastor at Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, Nebraska. The start of the Korean War fueled outrage against a Conscientious Objector (CO) military deferment from neighboring communities. Vandals painted some barn doors yellow; children were bullied on playgrounds; friendly conversations were now strained. Rev. Nickel was providing catechism instruction and personal counseling to young men applying for a CO classification. Upon being invited, he decided to appear at a public Citizens' meeting, willing to explain his Mennonite convictions. "We believe in the principle that love works in a world of hate," were his closing words.

Lois has revisited the events of those years by recording her memories, examining newspaper and church records and interviewing men from the Bethesda Church who served in 1-W, Pax, and voluntary service programs during the Korean War. Her book tells the story of that time. Interview transcripts bring alive the young men's hardships as well as retrospective wisdom. Discussion questions and a reader's theatre script encourage youth or adult classes to grapple with a serious issue: how might they have lived out their own faith at such a time?

A copy of the book is in our church library. It was adapted as a 10-minute play and performed April 27 as part of the Hesston College play writing festival. Another 10-minute play 'Classified', based on the difficulties of getting the CO classification, was selected and performed by Hesston College in 2018.

~ Pat Friesen

Happy 80th Birthday Marvin Thieszen!



On July 6, 1939 older siblings, Harold, Carl, Aldon, Rosella and Edna welcomed Marvin as the youngest addition to the Daniel and Marie Thieszen family. Marvin was born at home on a farm near Henderson, NE, grew up there and attended a country grade school for his elementary years. He then graduated from Henderson High School following which he attended Bethel College, graduating in 1961 with a major in music. As will be apparent, music has been one of the cornerstones of his life.

Upon graduation from Bethel Marvin enrolled in Mennonite Biblical Seminary which had recently moved to Elkhart, IN. It was while at seminary that he met Shirley

Goertzen his future life partner. Marvin and Shirley were married in December of 1962 during which time he was doing IW service at Woodlawn Church in Chicago and she was teaching in an elementary school. Following Marvin's IW service they moved back to Indiana returning to seminary for another semester and then to Goshen College where Marvin completed his teaching certification. He took his first teaching position in Elkhart, IN where he taught elementary music for five years. It was during those years that two children, Stacy and then Mark, joined the family.

Teaching vocal music continued to occupy the next few years of Marvin's professional life, next at Freeman Academy and Jr. College from 1970 – 1975 and then in Lakin, KS where he taught all of the vocal music in grades 1 – 12 for four years. At that point Marvin changed careers, working briefly with a builder in Garden City and then becoming an independent contractor, specializing in residential renovations.

During the Lakin years Marvin also built a considerable piano tuning business, something he had begun at Freeman and which continues to this day. He still makes trips to western Kansas to service some of his customers there.

In 2007 Marvin and Shirley moved to Newton, living with their son Mark while Marvin built their home on Wildwood Way in North Newton. They moved into that home in 2009 and

in a turn about Mark joined them there, helping Marvin care for Shirley prior to her death in 2014.

In retirement, though as previously noted one cannot truly say that Marvin is retired as his piano tuning business continues, Marvin is active in a number of choral groups including the BCMC Chancel Choir, the Newton Chorale, the Masterworks Chorale and Mennonite Men's Chorus. He finds that working out at the Rec Center five days a week is an important way to keep the body fit and healed and that taking piano lessons through Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts keeps the mind active and fingers limber. He also enjoys occasional trips to Minneapolis to visit daughter Stacy and two grandsons.

Marvin, BCMC is blessed by your presence and your musical gifts. ~ *Dianne Epp*

Happy 80th Birthday Di Rempel Suderman! July 17, 2019



Dilores was born at home on a farm near Hillsboro,

KS. By first grade Dilores, known to her family by her middle name, Fay, knew her life's calling was teaching! Dolls, neighborhood children and cats were her students. "The cats were the hardest to teach" she quipped, "they kept wandering away!"

Curiosity about other people and their cultures was also evident even in first grade when Di begged her older sister, Jane, to bring home a Social Studies textbook so she could study the pictures.

Given her love of teaching and learning, her curious mind, her devotion to her students and being drawn to other languages and cultures, Di taught for 39 years in England, Germany and the U.S. She estimates she has taught over 1400 students, as well as led numerous teacher seminars and workshops. Always eager to learn to better understand and teach the children in her charge, she earned three Master's degrees in Reading, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, and Special Education.

Traveling and living in foreign countries was a large part of Di's life when she was single. She agrees with Mark Twain, "Travel [abroad] is death to prejudice, bigotry, and narrowmindedness." Some fun adventures include climbing Macchu Picchu, climbing a glacier in Austria, swimming with dolphins and seals in the Galapagos Islands, flying a student bush plane in Alaska, sailing a friend's yacht off the San Juan Islands, and

being dressed up as a Bedouin bride in a Tunisian Souk. But the most memorable was when she and 12 other Fulbright Exchange Teachers from the U.S. were invited to have "Royal Tea" with the "Queen Mum" at St. James Palace during the time she taught in Bristol. When Di was announced, she walked 30 feet of red carpet toward the "Queen Mum" who held out her hand, smiled warmly and said, "My, Dilores, it must be very hot in Kansas in July." Di was so surprised the "Queen Mum" called her by her first name that, to her chagrin, she awkwardly sort of bobbed up and down instead of curtsying properly as practiced and said, "Yes, Mum."

When her family moved to Newton from Hillsboro while she was in high school, Di and her parents attended BCMC. Her mother, Irene, was a willing volunteer on the BCMC kitchen committee. Her father, Leonhard, recorded Sunday worship services for Willis Rich who was homebound.

Di was the first in her extended family to attend college. In addition to scholarships, she worked as a student secretary for Dr. John F. Schmidt and took dictation for the Mennonite Encyclopedia from Dr. Krahn. She was the ninth Wuppertal Exchange Student to Germany her junior year. She cherishes her father's parting words, "*Your mother and I have raised you the best we knew how and now we are curious what you are going to do with your life.*"

At 57 Di married Lee Suderman, "inheriting" two

grown children, Verlyn Suderman (Chicago) and Vonette Carter (Lake Forest, CA) and now has five grandchildren. When Di retired from teaching, Lee decided to return to the pastorate. So, Di started a second career as a pastor's wife which greatly enriched her life!

In 2013 they volunteered at a Polish YMCA and joined a Mennonite Heritage Tour through Poland. In late July, Di and Lee will celebrate their joint 80th birthdays in Breckinridge with their family. Next year they plan to visit many friends in Germany. Now, at 80, she finds herself focused on gratitude for a rich and full life of faux pas, lessons and adventures. Her prayer today is, "Thank you, Lord, for the measure of health we still enjoy!"

~ *Pat Friesen*

BCMC Senior High Youth Activities

The Senior High Youth Group ended the school year with its annual hamburger fry and by saying goodbye to its seniors: Christa Kondziola, Anjela Rodriquez, Jonah Hodge, Noah Massanari, and Ignacy Kitlowksi- although Christa, Jonah and Noah will be joining the group for convention in Kansas City. Also going to convention will be Nicole Tran, Jonah Schloneger, Alahna Wheat, Emma Claassen, Gabe Rodriquez, Simon Hodge, and sponsors Bethany Schrag, Tim Schrag, Megan Leary, and Ben Lichti. Pastor Dawn Yoder Harms will also join us for certain activities and incoming pastor Renee Reimer hopes to meet up with us for at least a

meal. Youth convention activities include worship (combined with the adult worship this year), learning seminars on a variety of topics, a service project, "squad" activities (a new addition this year), and time for recreation and exploring the exhibits. We will also be enjoying fellowship and fireworks at Worlds of Fun on the 4th. Thank you to the congregation for your support of the youth group through fellowship, prayer, and your generous donations! ~ Ben Lichti



Pictures taken by Youth Group sponsor, Bethany Schrag, at the Senior High Youth Group Fundraiser Hamburger Fry/Picnic on VBS Sunday, June 2, 2019



Brad Burch and Tim Schrag also helped the Youth Group by frying the hamburgers and hot dogs while simultaneously leaning on the table!

Vacation Bible School



We were *Detectives of Divinity* during our 2019 BCMC Vacation Bible School, May 28 to 31, learning to detect God at work in each other as we gathered every morning. We sang, we laughed, we listened, we created, we snacked, and we shared as we put Mennonite Central Committee School Kits together. We missed New Creation's participation as they became part of a joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) here in Newton, but benefits

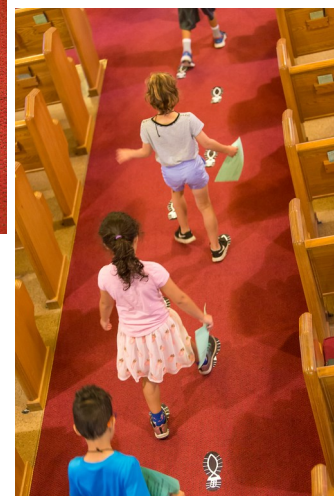
abounded those of us who gathered: intergenerational mix, a way to play and learn, support of the youth fundraiser on Sunday and just plain old community building. Thank you, BCMC, for supporting this special week in the life of our church! ~ Susan Jantzen



A camel visited the BCMC VBS



Mysterious footsteps went down the center aisle of the BCMC sanctuary



VBS children followed those footsteps to worship time



Registration was the first order of business on the beginning day of VBS—pictured here is Megan Kohlman, one of the directors



Rebecca Schloneger led music



Pastor Susan Jantzen played piano



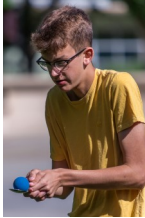
Crystal Gaeddert directed the art projects



Another director, Mary Ellen Hodge



Cliff Dick directed games



Pictures taken by official VBS photographer, Weldon Schloneger



There were a host of great teachers, helpers, terrific smiling kids, games, snacks, singing, art, drama, and even some classroom work — — — And a dead fish!



Anniversaries



Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary!
Carolyn (Bachman) and Omar Voran
August 22, 1954



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary!
Bernice (Klaassen) and John Esau
July 24, 1959



Happy 50th
Wedding
Anniversary
Margo
(Loewen) and
Dale Schrag
July 12, 1969

Anniversaries



Happy 25th
Wedding
Anniversary!
Joe and Lil
(Richert) Peters
July 23, 1994



Happy 25th Wedding
Anniversary!
Brenda (Krause) and
Claude Turner
August 13, 1994

Obituaries

Verna M. Kaufman Goering Nov. 9, 1915—March 3, 2019

Verna, 103, died at Pine Village Nursing Home, Moundridge. She was born in rural Galva, KS. Verna was a wider fellowship member of BCMC.

Leroy K. Franz—Oct. 31, 1931—April 22, 2019

Leroy K. Franz, 87, died at Bethesda Home, Goessel. He was born in Hutchinson, the son of John J. and Sara Siemens Franz. He was a member of the Buhler Mennonite Church, an associate member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church, and was an original student of the Northview Opportunity School, Newton. Survivors include a sister, Eldine Franz (Paul) Harder, N. Newton; 6 nieces and nephews, Gregory Franz, Cory Franz-Eby, Gayle Franz, Susan Heller, Dr. Scott Harder, and Kay Dalke; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Delton Franz; and a nephew, Timothy Harder.



Clarence B. Niles January 6, 1927 – May 14, 2019

Clarence B. Niles was born in Newton, KS to Linda (Penner) and Walter E. Niles. Clarence attended a one-room school, Diamond, District No. 80 and Halstead High School, graduating in 1943. He served in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II. Clarence attended Bethel College, majoring in chemistry and minoring in math, graduating in 1950. He and Gladys Schmidt were married in 1951. They lived in Moscow, KS, Hugoton and then Newton. At Newton High, he initially taught physics and math but ended up concentrating on math. After retirement in 1989 (after teaching in Newton for thirty-one years), he established a sharpening service and made woodcrafts. Clarence was a member of BCMC and served as trustee, church treasurer and usher as well as being active in the Sojourners Sunday School class, which was very important to him. He is survived by his wife Gladys, daughter Gail and husband Mark Stucky, and grandchildren: Matt and his wife Blaire Mayhue and Marike and

friend Alex Igram. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Jan; parents, Walter and Linda Niles; and siblings Keith Niles and Mary



Carl R. Andreas— January 23, 1927—June 8, 2019

Carl R. Andreas was born in Beatrice, NE, the second son of William C. and Frieda W. vander Smissen Andreas. After high school graduation he joined a Union Pacific Railroad survey crew in the Colorado Division until drafted in May 1945. He served in the Civilian Public Service (CPS) soil conservation camp near Colorado Springs before transferring to Gulfport, MS public health service camp until the end of 1946. He graduated from Bethel College in 1950. He married Carol Rich May 30, 1951. Carl worked in the business office at Bethel Deaconess Hospital until 1952, when he and Carol began graduate work at the University of Minnesota, Carl completing a master's degree in Hospital Administration in 1955. Their first two sons,

Joel and Ronald were born in Normal, IL. In 1959, Carl accepted an assignment with Indiana University as part of a USAID project to train Pakistani doctors in the basic sciences at Postgraduate Medical Center Karachi. In 1963 the family returned to the US, making their home in Detroit, MI. Peter Andreas was born in 1965 and the family was together until 1969. The marriage ended in divorce. Carl worked at Wayne State University in human resources, later joining the Social Security department of the United Auto Workers International Union as a consultant in pensions and benefits until his retirement. Carl married Rosalind Enns Autenrieth June 9, 1973 in Rochester, MI. In 1985 Carl followed Rosalind to Tucson, AZ where she served at the University of Arizona and to the University of Vermont in the Burlington area in 1989. He leaves his wife Rosalind, sons Joel (Ay Vinijkul) of Baltimore, MD, Ronald (Dawn Blanken) of

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Pueblo, CO, and Peter (Kristen Lavalee) of Providence, RI; four special grandchildren Derek Andreas (Dallas, TX); Marley (Baltimore), Stella and Annika (Providence); a nephew George (Bev) Andreas of Galva, KS and niece Ruth (Tony) Tyler of Hawaii. He was predeceased by his parents, older brother Paul W. Andreas and wife Viola.

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 7, 2019—Psalm Prayers for the Community

Worship with sermon by Susan Jantzen; music by Matt Schloneger

July 14, 2019—Sharing from MennoCon19 (Mennonite Church USA Conventin) Worship with sharing by the Senior High Youth; music by Neil Smucker

Sunday school hour: Sharing by delegates to the convention

July 21, 2019—Psalms of Disorientation

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Suzy Burch and Howard Glanton

July 28, 2019—Psalms of Reorientation

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms

Sunday School hour: Farewell for Susan Jantzen in the Fellowship Hall

3:00 pm Chris Shaw Organ Recital in the Sanctuary

August 4, 2019

Worship with sermon by Dawn Yoder Harms; music by Andrew Thiesen

August 11, 2019

Installation of the new pastor for Faith Formation, Renee Reimer
Potluck in Fellowship Hall to welcome Renee

August 18, 2019—Back to School Sunday with a Backpack Blessing

Junior Sunday school starts
BCMC hosts a brunch for new Bethel College students

August 25, 2019—Dedication of the new church year

Mentor/Mentee Lunch