

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

April—May 2008/2:2



REACHING OUT TO THE HOMELESS

Circle 5 of Women's Fellowship met at the Newton Homeless Shelter Monday evening, February 25 for a work night. One of the tasks for several members was to help a young family of five pack their belongings to move from the shelter to their own home. The family included a young woman with three children, two boys, and a girl about 7-years-of-age, and her new husband.

As one of the members of Circle 5, I was moved by this young family (the mother is expecting twins). While spending time with my grandchildren, Chance Penner-Parrish and Bailey Penner, in Maryland, children of our son Murray Penner and Blaine Parrish, I told them the story about the young family that we helped. Chance and Bailey, along with the rest of our family went to the Christmas Open House at Harvey County Homeless Shelter last year, so they were familiar with the setting.

A short time later, Bailey, age 7, came to me with two one-dollar bills crumpled in her hands. She gave them to me and asked me to take it to the homeless shelter as her gift to them. The next day when I picked her up at school, she

handed me a sack with additional money, with her friends Caroline and Julia smiling by her side. She said it was from her friends who also wanted to help children who didn't have a home. Upon returning to Newton, I personally delivered the money to the Homeless Shelter from the three young girls at Oakland Terrace Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The members of BCMC, too, have opportunities to show compassion and offer help to individuals and families in Harvey County. The Outreach/Peace and Justice Commission oversees our BCMC participation with Faith Mennonite at the shelter one week each three months. Together, we provide seven evening meals and volunteers for fourteen shifts as hosts and/or hostesses. We have a group of volunteers from BCMC who help regularly, but we are in need of more people to become involved.

We completed our last week in January, and our next shift will be April 2-8. In addition, the remainder of our schedule for the year 2008 will be July 2-8, October 8-14 and December 31-January

6, 2009. The adult Sunday School classes have been solicited to help prepare meals and to become involved by observing the hosts/hostesses. There may be other individuals or couples who are new to the experience who might consider taking a turn as observers for an evening (5:00 to 9:00 p.m.) with experienced volunteers to get an idea of what is involved. If you are one of these persons who have a heart to help the homeless, please call any member of the O/PJ Commission. Members of the O/PJ Commission include Floyd Bartel and Justina Neufeld, Patty Shelly, Marion Deckert, Arnold Wedel, Alice Suderman and Karen Penner. One may also directly call Grace Bartel of Faith Church, 316-283-4553, to get a date on the schedule. The Homeless Shelter also continues to offer orientations. You may watch for announcements of these in the BCMC church bulletin.

Karen Penner



Bailey Penner



The Entrance to the Homeless Shelter, 209 E. Broadway (at the back of the building, east side)

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Editorial committee: Esther Groves, Dale Horst, Karen Penner

MISSION FESTIVAL PREVIEW: A VISIT FROM THE SAWATZKY FAMILY

This year's Mission Festival will stretch across two Sundays in June instead of one Sunday in January as we've had in recent years. The reason? That's when our mission partners Joe and Anna Sawatzky (serving with Mennonite Mission Network in South Africa) and their children will be in Kansas for a visit. On June 8, 15 and 22 they will speak at supporting congregations in the area: BCMC, Shalom Mennonite Church, Tabor Mennonite Church, and First Mennonite Church in McPherson. Here at BCMC we will have a chance to meet them as guest speakers on Sunday morning, June 8, and in an early evening fasha and presentation on June 15 (watch bulletin for more details). As members of the Outreach/Peace and Justice Commission plan for these special occasions they also remind us of our \$4,000 above-budget commitment to our partnership with the Sawatzkys for this year. Contributions should be made payable to BCMC with Mission Partnership Fund on the memo line so our treasurer knows we want it to go to the ministry of the Sawatzkys in South Africa. – *Karen Penner*



Moses, Levi, and Isaac
Sawatzky

MEMBERS OF BCMC ATTEND HEALTH ADVOCACY DAY IN TOPEKA

Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Richard Friesen and John and Margaret Hiebert from BCMC, along with approximately twenty five other Western District people, attended a Health Advocacy Day in Topeka on March 12, 2008.

The Kansas Faith Alliance for Health Reform is a newly formed group and was represented by a number of churches, including Methodist, Episcopal, Catholic and Mennonite.

The mission of the organization is to advocate collectively, as a people of faith, for a health care system guided by ethically acceptable policies. Their vision is equitable health care for all people of Kansas.

The morning consisted of advocacy training led by Gary Brunk, executive director of Kansas Action for children.

After lunch small groups met with their legislators to discuss support for the following reform measures:
ÉExpansion of health insurance coverage for young adults, employees of small businesses, and any adults whose household incomes are at or below 100% of the poverty guidelines.

ÉAll proposals related to tobacco use prevention and control including the tax of tobacco products.

ÉAggressive marketing of HealthWave, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, but also an expansion of this program for children in families with incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty level. ~ *Margaret Hiebert for the BCMC Health Cabinet*

WITH OUR MEMBERS

Births

Maisie Lee Brubacher born to Josh and Erin Brubacher, Newton on February 24, 2008

Address Changes for Your Yearbook

Darryl and Ellen (Vogts) Awe, 1304 Trinity Dr., Newton, KS, 67114; 316-288-1600

John and Vicki Bailey ó new e-mail address ó bailey@pixius.net

Justin and Amy Bartel, 2200 S. Rock Rd., Apt. 1111, Wichita, KS, 67207-5330

MaLinda Brown ó new phone number ó 804-4251

Floyd Bartel and Justina Neufeld ó new e-mail address ó fgbjdn@cox.net

Cliff Dick, Marlene Ewert and Nat Dick, 402 E. 23rd St., North Newton, KS, 67117

Brandan Ediger, 7272 E. 37th St. North, Apt. #1315, Wichita, KS, 67226; 316-288-1925

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Amy Endres, 1705 N. Country Walk Lane, Mulvane, KS, 67110-9218
 Ladd and Brianne Epp, 3950 Midland Ave., Ste B, Glenwood Springs, CO, 81601-4605
 Lester and Winifred Ewy ó new e-mail address ó winles21@peoplepc.com
 Marlene Faul ó new e-mail address ó mvfaul@cox.net
 William and Margaret Friesen have moved to 3041 Ivy Court, North Newton, KS, 67117
 Tyler Fromm, 1537 Tennessee St., Lawrence, KS, 66044, tyfro23@ku.edu
 Harriett Gaeddert moved from Apt. 106 to Health Care 39S
 Delia Graberô incorrect e-mail address in yearbookô correct address is deliagraber@cox.net
 Lucille Jackson moved from Apt. 203 to Apt. 107 (Kidron-Bethel)
 Ron and Carol Peters ó new e-mail address ó rcpeters1@att.net
 Hugo Reimer, 3056 Ivy Court, #17, North Newton, KS, 67117
 Marjorie Schowalter is in Kidron Bethel Health Care, Room 27W
 Martha Stucky has moved to Kidron Bethel Health Care ó Room 35S
 Rachel Stucky Rippy, 1584 Burland Dr., Baily, CO, 80421; 303-816-1717
 N.Paul and Neva Belle Stucky moved to Kidron Bethel Assisted Living, 3056 Ivy Court, Apt. 23
 Brad Voran, 3 Sapphire Court, North Newton, KS 67117
 David and Marilyn Warkentine ó new e-mail address ó marilynwarkentine@att.net
 Linda Willey, 2417 Edgemore, North Newton, KS, 67117

Anniversaries

65 Years

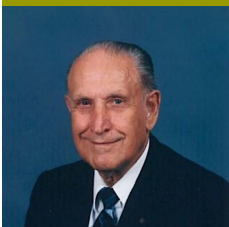
Lester and Winifred Ewy—May 23, 1943

Les and Winnie were married during World War II. Due to the war there was a shortage of film. Melvin Gingerich, a professor at Bethel College, happened to have one roll of film, and as a gift to Les and Winnie, offered to take their wedding pictures. They were married at the Bethel College Chapel in the Administration Building at that time, the Bethel College Mennonite Church.)



Congratulations to the BCMC basketball team, the õPaciFISTSö for taking First Place in Division II of the Western District Conference Basketball Tournamentô April 1-5! Jim Robb Coordinated the team and players were Chris Kliewer, Matt Koontz, Erich Boschmann, David Kreider, Cliff Dick, Ruth R. Harder, Dan Lindenmeyer, Jenni Koontz, Patrick Robb, Nathan Stucky, Adam Robb.

OBITUARIES



Oswald H. Goering—June 19, 1923 ó February 1, 2008

Oswald H. Goering (Ozzie), age 84, died on February 1, 2008 at The Cedars in McPherson, Kansas.

He was born on June 19, 1923 on a farm outside Moundridge, Kansas, the son of Henry J. and Mary Kauffman Goering. He was a graduate of Moundridge High School and Bethel College (1949) in North Newton, Kansas. He married Elaine Luella Wedel on May 25, 1947. After receiving his PhD from Indiana University, he began his career as Dean of Men and associate professor of education at Bethel College (1954-1958). He was professor of Outdoor Teacher Education at Northern Illinois University (1958-1979). He received the Julian Smith award (1978) from the Outdoor Education Council for his contribution to the Outdoor education field. Upon retiring from NIU as chair of the department, he returned to Bethel College as a director of the Kauffman museum in North Newton (1979-1984) and director of the Peace Lecture Series from 1984-1988.

Ozzie's work in Civilian Public Service (CPS) during World War II (1943-1946) took him to the Black Hills South Dakota; Mulberry, Florida; and La Plata, Puerto Rico. As volunteers for Mennonite Central

Continued next page

Committee, he and Elaine worked in Paraguay where they assisted in resettling war refugees (1949-1951). He grew up in the Eden Mennonite Church and was a member of the Mt. Morris, Illinois Church of the Brethren (1958-1979) and the Bethel College Mennonite Church (1979 ó 2008).

Ozzie could speak both German and Spanish. He held a general class amateur radio license (W9VWK) and also a commercial pilot's license with instrument rating. He authored several books, including *A Leader's Guide to Nature-Oriented Activities* (4th edition ó 2004). He joined Rotary in 1979 and was District 5690 Governor (1991-1992). In 1996, he received Rotary's highest award, the Service Above Self award. His greatest cause was his enthusiastic support of Heifer International. He developed thirteen Heifer Projects around the globe: Uganda, Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Dominican Republic, Vietnam and Thailand, all with the help of his family, friends, and fellow Rotarians. He received the Golden Ark (1994) and the Gift Ark (1997) awards from Heifer International.

Ozzie is survived by his wife, Elaine; two daughters, Kathryn Goering Reid and husband Stephen, Richmond, Indiana and Patricia Goering Alba and husband Joseph, Gainesville, Florida; two sisters, Ada Goering, Neodesha, Kansas, and Kathryn News and husband Frank, Drexell, Pennsylvania; one sister-in-law Carmen Goering, Champaign, Illinois and six grandchildren; Derek Reid, Jacob Reid, Mary Reid and husband Jonathan Russell, Jesse Reid, Elli Alba and Billie Alba. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Ellis and Ralph Goering, and a sister, Martha Ford.



Vilas R. Gerber—April 23, 1912 ó March 5, 2008

Vilas Gerber, age 95 of North Newton, passed away Wednesday, March 5, 2008, at Kansas Christian Home in Newton.

On April 23, 1912, Vilas Roy Gerber was born on a farm between Pandora and Bluffton, Ohio. His father was Noah and his mother was Carolina. He had one sister, Melvina, and four brothers, Myron, Millen, a twin brother Vernon, and Leland. All preceded him in death.

Vilas attended Mulberry Grade School, a little red brick one room school for eight years. He graduated from Pandora High School where he was active in basketball, football, baseball and track. At the same time, he continued to study flute, which he had started at age ten. The depression of the 30's kept him out of college for five years. He then attended Bluffton College and graduated in 1938 with a major in music. In 1942 he received an M.A. degree in Music Education from Ohio State University.

Vilas enjoyed a career as an instrumental music instructor for thirty-nine years. He especially enjoyed placing a violin under the chin of a fourth grader and then teaching him or her for three years in the grade school and then three more in Curtis Junior High, Wichita, Kansas, where his students came after the sixth grade.

His passion in his teaching career was to foster the interest and growth of orchestras in our public schools. He so appreciated Bluffton College's instrumental music teacher, Sidney Hauenstein under whom he had the privilege of playing.

While teaching in six communities, he enjoyed playing in community orchestras. The first was in the Bluffton College orchestra while he was still in high school. Later he played flute in the Lima Little Symphony. While teaching in the hills of southern Ohio he played flute in the Portsmouth Ohio Symphony.

From there he moved to Wintersville, Ohio and played violin in the Stubenville Community String Orchestra. Then came six years on the Bethel College faculty, where he taught music education courses and directed the college orchestra. At this time he played flute in the Hutchinson Symphony. Following these years at Bethel, Vilas spent five years teaching in the Lindsborg public schools and playing violin in the well known Messiah orchestra. His last move was to Wichita where he taught twenty-three years and for a short time played viola in the Friends University orchestra.

One of his hobbies was collecting maxims and correlating them with the scriptures. Another was serving as an escort at Wesley Hospital and at the Veterans Hospital in Wichita. Also, since 1977 when he retired, he played thirty-minute musical programs in nursing homes in Wichita and in the Newton area.

Continued next page

On May 29, 1945 Vilas married Bertha Fern Regier. They have two daughters. Kathy lives in Henderson, Nebraska and works in an Aurora nursing home, and Carol Gerber (Curr) lives in Sonoma, California and works on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Vilas enjoyed the many family trips to Ohio to visit his parents in Pandora, and his sister and brothers in Bluffton and Toledo. Family camping vacations in Colorado, especially in the Westcliffe area, often with friends, were always a treat.

Survivors are his wife, Bertha Fern, of North Newton; daughter Carol Gerber and Richard Curr of Sonoma, California; daughter Kathy and Myron Siebert, grandson Jason and Amber Siebert, great grandchildren Delaney, Cassidy and Kaden all of Henderson, Nebraska; twin grandchildren Joel Siebert of Las Vegas, Nevada and Jennifer Siebert of Geneva, Nebraska.

BCMC Easter Egg Hunt—March 16, 2008 (Palm Sunday)



THE BELAYERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

When our Sunday school class first started we were known as the Young Adult class for lack of a better name. This stayed with us for almost three years when someone suggested that we change our name to something a little less generic. This led to the suggestion of being known as the YAMS (Young Adult, Married, Single) which fit our group a little better but it still lacked a good description of who we were and what we wanted out of our Sunday school class.

One day, while doing my devotions using *Our Daily Bread*, I read about a Sunday school class that called themselves The Belayers with the following meaning:

“Committed to giving one another help and support in our daily walk with Christ and promise to uphold one another in prayer. Provide assistance as needed, encourage one another and come alongside in times of spiritual danger. We will ‘hold the ropes’ for each other.”

This seemed to fit us and who we were as a group. I took the suggestion to the group and every one really liked the new name and meaning. We are still on our journey as a group. ~ *Sheri Leopard*

SAIL ON SHIP OF BETHEL



Why a ship in our stained glass windows? In the 1950s choosing the images for the west stained glass lancet windows for the new church was quite an issue. Eventually four symbols were chosen, the cross of Christ triumphant over the world, the grapes, the wheat, and, most dramatically, a ship in full sail.

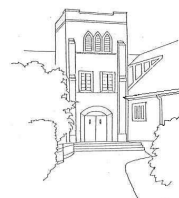
From earliest times, Christians have viewed the ship as symbolically the ark or ship of the Lord. When ordering the windows, the congregation called special attention to the scarlet cross on the sail and the stormy seas. These would convey the central idea of the church charting her course on the seas of life. The result is very striking—a sermon in glass. The Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis made the windows, the same company used by First Mennonite Church of Newton. ~ *Keith Sprunger*

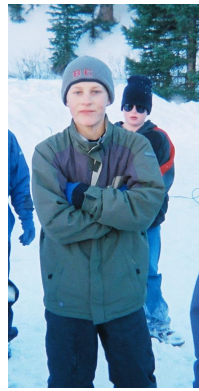
RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE REPORT

Over the past 10 months, the Restructuring Committee has been working toward a new/updated structure for church commissions, committees, and boards. As we've met, we've pondered how to best pursue the vision of the church, how to most efficiently and effectively use the people of the church, and how to do all of this, while realizing that our context is not only church related, but also related to our involvement in the greater community. While this all seems like a very daunting set of tasks, our dedicated group has met diligently with the hope of preparing a structure that is easy to understand, easy to support, and easy to find places to plug into.

We've visited quite often about central themes surrounding our new structure—a greater sense of leadership development for commissions, more effective communication between committees, commissions, and boards, how we can advance our vision, and how we can recognize and use the passions of our members both inside and outside of the church, to name a few—and have developed several models of a proposed structure (which, as you might imagine, have been changed many times from the original proposal!). The proposals have both old and new ideas in them, as we've realized that some of the pieces of our old structure are very healthy, while some are in need of a little help. One of these proposed structure models is scheduled to be approved by the Church Board at the April 4 meeting, with an official congregational proposal in the works for the congregational meeting on April 27. At this point, the congregation will begin to have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss, and share ideas about the proposal, with the hope of a vote sometime in July.

We are very thankful to all of those people and groups who have contributed in some way to this group. Whether through round table discussion, shared statements through e-mail, or the many interviews we've had, we greatly appreciate the input and support of many of the people in our congregation, and hope for continued, healthy dialogue in the future! ~ *Adam Robb* (Members of the Restructuring Committee are: Carol Buller, Elizabeth Friesen, Richard Friesen, Ruth R. Harder, Heidi Regier Kreider, Adam Robb, Doug Siemens, Linda Willey, Orlyn Zehr.)





Pictures from Junior High Snow Camp
Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp
February 8-10, 2008



And Pictures from Senior High
Snow Camp
Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp
February 15-17, 2008



PASTOR'S CORNER — WEB-WALKING

RUTH R. HARDER



I've tried to make curiosity my close companion as a new pastor at BCMC. I've also tried to remember what my good friend told me before I started here as pastor: "BCMC is more like a complex web than a monolith. Appreciate complexity, search and explore it." "Maybe," he added, "you could see yourself as a non-spider-like web-walker" someone who explores the various contours and designs of people's lives and faith."

On February 27, BCMC youth joined me in a web-walking exercise. I asked the youth to reflect on their "family web:" What does family look like to you? What makes a strong family? How much does your family influence you? How well do your parents understand you? In what ways is it difficult to relate to your family? What would you like to change about your family? It upped the ante when I told the youth that I planned to videotape our conversation and that parts of it would appear in the Summer issue of *With*, a magazine for radical Christian youth (published by Faith and Life Resources and edited by Carol Duerksen).*

We discussed a range of things: Adoption, foreign exchange students, busyness, loyalty, abuse, death, homosexuality, disappointments, humor, meals, siblings, future hopes, trips, moves, family traditions, etc. What struck me most was that these 11 youth seemed adept at exploring and appreciating the complexity and possibilities inherent in these questions.

We all belong to what are often complex webs. How are we respecting and appreciating that complexity? More simply, how well do we know the people around us? How well do people know us? How about we all keep putting on our curiosity hats? How about we all see ourselves as web-walkers (NO SPIDERS ALLOWED), people who can put assumptions aside and become more adept at and interested in exploring the lines that make up our and others lives and faith.

*When this issue comes out we will make an announcement and have copies available in our church library.

Worship and events schedule

(Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates.)

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship time 10:30 a.m.

Christian education 10:50 a.m.

April

Youth Catechism will meet every Sunday at 5 p.m. through May 4—Room 11

- 6 Bring Food for Salvation Army
Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale pennies will be brought forward during the service
Items for the Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale will be displayed at the back of the sanctuary
- 11-12 **Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale—Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson**
April 11ô Kansas Mennonite Menø Chorusô 7 p.m. in the Meadowlark Building
- 13 **6:00 p.m.**—Newton Mennonite Hispanic Church Inaugural Serviceô BCMC Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.—Kansas Mennonite Men Concertô Bethel College Memorial Hall
- 15 **Women's Fellowship Banquet** (for women and girls)—**6 p.m. in BCMC Fellowship Hall**
Theme is *Willingness-Sharing God's Gifts* with author Margaret Kraisinger speaking about her book *The Western*
- 16 **Life Enrichment will be at BCMC—9 a.m.**
- 20 **Chancel Choir presents *Elijah* during the worship service**
Noonô Fellowship and Friends Potluck for folks in their 50s and younger
Kansas Mennonite Men Concertô Lindsborg, Bethany College Presser Hall at 7 p.m.
- 27 **Child Dedication and Recognition for Junior Choir Graduates**
Noon potluck and congregational meeting at 12:45 p.m.

May

- 4 Bring Food for Salvation Army
Creation Care Sunday
7:00 p.m.—Senior High Recognition on the Church Lawn
- 11 **Pentecost Sunday—Baptism and Communion**
- 18 **Sunday School Teacher Recognition**
Noon —Mentor/Mentee Meal—Fellowship Hall
- 25 **Bethel College Baccalaureate—10 a.m.**



Bethel College Mennonite Church
PO Box 364
North Newton, KS 67117

Return service requested

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