

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

Worship 9:30 am — Fellowship time 10:30 am—Christian education 10:50 am

April

5 PALM SUNDAY

God so loves through clarifying

Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder and music by the Cherub Choir and Chancel Bells

Bring food for Salvation Army

9 MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. A simple soup supper—Fellowship Hall

6:45 p.m. Tenebrae and Communion service—Fellowship Hall

12 EASTER SUNDAY

God so loves by conquering death

6:45 a.m. Sunrise service — at Lake Loganbill (2 miles north of BCMC on K-15, 1/4 mile east). (Meet at Fellowship Hall if inclement weather.) The Hospitality Commission will host **a come and go breakfast** in Fellowship Hall from **8:30-9:30 am**.

Come enjoy a cinnamon roll, fruit and conversation anytime during that hour.

9:30 a.m. Prelude

10:00 a.m. Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider and music by Chancel Choir

Sabbatical release for Pastor Heidi Regier Kreider

No Sunday school

19 Worship with sermon by Fred Obold and jazz music by Ben Harder and friends

26 CREATION CARE SUNDAY

Worship with readings by Paul G. Jantzen from his book *Prairie Wanderings: The Land and Creatures of the Grassland* and sharing by Ben Kreider and Lorna Harder; music by Chancel Choir
Noon potluck in Fellowship Hall and Congregational Meeting to follow (12:45 p.m.) in Sanctuary

May

3 Worship with sermon by Vern Rempel and music by Chancel Bells and Junior Choir

Bring food for Salvation Army

10 SENIOR RECOGNITION DAY

Worship with sermon by Fred Obold and music by Menno Ringers

17 TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Worship with sermon by Barry Bartel and music by Chancel Choir

Golden Agers potluck at noon—Fellowship Hall

24 BETHEL COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE

10:00 a.m. Prelude

10:30 a.m. Baccalaureate

No Sunday school today

Bethel College Mennonite Church

PO Box 364

North Newton, KS 67117

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BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

April—May 2009/3:2



GRACE REGIER WILL RETIRE AFTER 19 YEARS AS BCMC'S CUSTODIAN



Up at 4:00 a.m., at work by 5:00, vacuum, dust, scrub, and remove trash till 1:00 p.m. then on to the next job, Grace is certainly hard working to say the least. How about Wednesdays' schedule; at BCMC from 5:00 to 1:00; then to Tabor Church, where she is also a custodian, till dinner time; eat dinner at the church, and then to choir practice; a long day. But perhaps the most remarkable thing about Grace is her positive and agreeable attitude toward her work and those she works with. For many years Grace and her late husband ran a large honey

producing operation. When health considerations prevented her husband from continuing the business, Grace needed to find another occupation. Custodial work was not exactly what she had in mind at the time but perhaps the opportunity at BCMC would do until she found something else. Now 19 years later she still likes her job and the people she works with, but is looking forward to retirement on May 31.

For Grace, each week is filled with the usual tasks of keeping the church tidy, setting up tables and chairs in fellowship hall, preparing for special events such as weddings and funerals, and cleaning the play school rooms. Grace comes every Saturday evening to lock up and then back early Sunday morning to unlock the church. Things slow down a bit

during the summer when play school is out and there are no Wednesday evening activities, so it is during this time that she can catch up on annual house keeping chores such as cleaning windows, yes she does windows, special floor polishing etc.

Although many of us do not see Grace going about her activities very often we have all benefited from her presence and will miss her conscientious efforts in keeping the church ship shape. The church staff will miss her decorations at Wednesday morning staff meetings; it's an extra touch that gets the day started right for every one present. What is Grace planning to do after retirement; she is not certain yet, but she is thinking about sleeping in, maybe till 5:00!
~ W. Dale Horst

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FRED OBOLD WILL ASSUME TEMPORARY BCMC PASTORAL DUTIES THIS SPRING



This summer while pastor Heidi Regier Kreider is on sabbatical, Fred Obold will serve as our interim pastor. Fred and Ruth live in Hesston, Ruth teaches kindergarten in the McPherson school system.

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Bethel College Mennonite Church
2600 College Ave., P.O. Box 364, North Newton, KS 67117 ~ 316-283-3667
office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net ~ web: bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net

Editorial committee: Karen Penner, Dale Horst

FRED OBOLD WILL ASSUME TEMPORARY BCMC PASTORAL DUTIES THIS SPRING (CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE)

Fred and Ruth have called BCMC home for the past several years. Fred was born and grew up near Reading, PA. He earned baccalaureate and Masters of Education degrees from Kutztown University, Kutztown PA, in elementary education. He received an M.A. degree in special education at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. He subsequently continued his training in special education at Shippensburg U., Millersville U., and Lehigh University. While teaching in eastern Pennsylvania he met a fellow teacher who was a member of the Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton. Through this contact he learned more about pacifism, the Anabaptist faith and eventually met Alvin Beachy, Zion’s pastor. In addition to many hours of discussions, Beachy introduced Fred to Mennonite Central Committee, leading to Fred’s working in the Amsterdam office of Menno Travel Service. Following his MCC service, Fred and Ruth were married and became members of Zion Mennonite Church.

During the academic year of 1974-5, Fred felt a call to prepare for the ministry and enrolled in Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in the fall of 1975. He received his Masters of Divinity in 1978. While a seminary student, Fred served as a summer assistant pastor at First Mennonite and West Zion Mennonite churches in Moundridge and as a summer pastor at the Goessel Mennonite Church. Since graduating from AMBS Fred has served as pastor at the Bethel Mennonite Church, Lancaster, PA, Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, Inman, KS, and Hesston Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. Since 1992 Fred has been a chaplain for Hospice of Reno County in Hutchinson.

Long ago and far away I happened to be in the congregation when Fred gave his first sermon at the Bethel Mennonite Church in Lancaster. I was very impressed with his sermon. No, I do not recall his text but do remember that he quoted from *Time* magazine and I thought him a completely modern pastor. Rosie and I were pleased that our paths crossed with the Obolds’ once more when we joined the BCMC congregation and we look forward to Fred serving our congregation this summer. ~ W. Dale Horst

OBITUARIES



Linda Mueller Kaufman—April 7, 1911—February 16, 2009

Linda Mueller, 97, died February 16, 2009, at Schowalter Villa, Hesston, KS. She was born April 7, 1911, to Peter and Anna Mueller on their farm northwest of Halstead. The family moved to a farm near Galveston, TX when Linda was three. After the hurricane of 1915, the family left in 1917 and moved to Deer Creek, OK, where Linda graduated from high school in 1928.

In 1932, Linda enrolled at Bethel College where she met Peter R. Kaufman. She graduated from Bethel in 1935, and she and Pete were married on July 11, 1937 at the Eden Mennonite Church near Moundridge. He died on February 8, 2005.

Linda taught school for many years and was also the assistant postmaster at the North Newton Post Office. She loved to cook and can, and kept an impeccable house, and her home was always a welcoming place for visitors and family. Pete and Linda were partners and enjoyed working together – gardening, painting, upholstering furniture, and building grandfather clocks. They loved to travel and were lifelong fans of Bethel College sports, faithfully attending all Thresher home games. Linda loved to quilt and the quilts she designed are now treasured family heirlooms.

Linda and Pete had lived in North Newton since 1945, where they were members of the Bethel College Mennonite Church. She served her church in a variety of ways over the years, including quilting with the BCMC Quilters. They were the parents of two sons, Bruce, who predeceased her, and Roger.

Linda lived at Schowalter Villa during her last years, where services were conducted for her on February 20 by Pastor Heidi Regier Kreider. She is survived by her son Roger and two grandsons, Brad Kaufman and Brain Kaufman.



Eldo Armand Peters—October 16, 1927—March 22, 2009

Eldo Armand Peters was born October 16, 1927 to Ernst and Hermina Schmidt Peters in Newton, Kansas. He passed quietly into Eternity on Sunday, March 22, 2009, at Kidron Bethel in North Newton, Kansas. His parents preceded him in death. He grew up on a farm northwest of Walton. He attended grade school and high school at Walton Consolidated Schools. For his first few years he attended the Tabor Mennonite Church and later attended the Walton Mennonite Church where he was baptized upon his confession of faith. In 1959 he transferred his membership to Bethel College Mennonite Church where he remained active until his death.

After high school Eldo worked for several local farmers. In 1948, he started farming together with his father. In 1958, he moved west of Newton and started farming on his own. In the

Continued next page

Bethel College Young Alumnus Award Continued

Following her residency, she continued gaining experience in sports medicine with work in many Wichita sports forums: Wichita City League high school football, WSU and Newman College sports, and professional sports teams Wichita Wranglers, Wichita Wingnuts, and the Wichita Thunder. She provided sideline coverage for the Thresher football in 2007.

Looking forward to completing her sports medicine fellowship at Via Christi soon, Jenni will begin practicing family and sports medicine in Newton later this year. Being a good physician is important to her, but just as important is patient and family involvement in health care. She has a passion for health care reform, preventative medicine, and in teaching families to make healthy choices in life through exercise and good nutrition, as evidenced in her choices of community service.

Jenni joined Bethel College Mennonite Church her senior year at Bethel and she and Matt continue to be active at BCMC. At the center of their lives are their three young children, Caleb, Abigail, and Naomi. ~ Karen Penner

SAMUEL SPRUNGER WINS GERMAN AWARD



Samuel Sprunger

Samuel Sprunger, a sophomore at Fargo High School, has been awarded an all-expense-paid study trip to Germany by the American Association of Teachers of German. He competed in a nationwide German testing program (approximately 26,000 students participated) and is the North Dakota winner. Forty-four students were selected for the awards. They will travel to Germany this summer for a three and a half week study trip, including excursions of cultural and historic interest.

Samuel is the son of David Sprunger and Charlotte Siemens of Fargo North Dakota and the grandson of Richard and Frances Siemens and Keith and Aldine Sprunger. ~ Keith Sprunger

PASTOR’S CORNER—RUTH R. HARDER



Staying local

BCMC youth are staying in Newton for their summer service week May 31-June 5. They will sleep in dorm rooms at Bethel College and volunteer at places like the Et Cetera Shop, Sand Creek Trail, Giving Garden, Peace Connections, Hope Home Repair, etc. Several BCMC members have already signed up to help with meals. Along with volunteering with local agencies and projects, the youth will spend an evening in the Flint Hills. Keith Harder, my dad, will lead the youth on a KS prairie tour—maybe even on horseback! Several adults from the church will also help out during the week, including our sponsors, Cliff Dick and Marlene Ewert. Also joining the youth will be Susan E. Fowler, an artist and storyteller from Evansville, IN. The youth met Susan last summer during their summer service week at Patchwork Central where Susan was the artist-in-residence. We wanted Susan to help the youth group observe and interact with their Newton surroundings through the means of art and story-telling.

There are many reasons for staying local. For one, there are things going on in Newton that we simply aren't aware of or involved in. I hope this week will open our eyes to our community's resources or lack thereof. One of the weekly traditions for people at Patchwork is to fill their worship communion table with local, neighborhood items (flowers, weeds, broken glass, fruit and vegetables from the garden, bike parts, pottery and artwork). Every week, the gathered Patchwork community celebrates and prays for their particular neighborhood and the ways God is at work. The community also laments how God's creative work is sometimes blocked. Likewise, as we serve and work together in Newton, I hope we too, will pay attention to the sights, smells and sounds of Newton praying for the particularities of this community. Please join us by praying for the youth, Susan, Cliff and Marlene and many others who are helping with this week. And make sure and join us for worship on Sunday, June 7 at which point we will tell stories and share art from the week.




Bethel College Outstanding Alumnus continued

Harold has been active at Bethel College Mennonite Church his entire life and has contributed generously to our musical program. He sang in the choir for many years and 10 hymns in the *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (“the blue hymnal”) bear his name as composer, arranger or tune harmonizer. Whenever I have the good fortune to sit close to Harold at Sunday morning worship, I remain silent and just listen to his fine voice.


Since their retirement Harold and Walter Jost have assumed leadership of the popular series for retirees, *Life Enrichment at Bethel*. This means arranging for and coordinating about 40 programs each semester for an average attendance of around 150 every Wednesday morning.

Harold and Rosemary live in North Newton where, in addition to family and community activities, he continues to enjoy composing and arranging music. ~ *W. Dale Horst*



The book, **Speaking for Herself, The Autobiographical Writings of Anna K. Juhnke** is available in the Bethel College bookstore. The total amount of payment for the book will go into the Anna K. Juhnke Scholarship Endowment Fund. The book costs twelve dollars. But if you wish to honor Anna with a larger amount, please feel free.

~ *Jim Juhnke*



BETHEL COLLEGE YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD



Jennifer (Scott) Koontz, M.D., Park City, was selected by the Bethel College Alumni Association to receive the Young Alumnus Award. She was given the award at a convocation on March 16, where she presented “Creating Change for the Health Care of Tomorrow.” This award is given each year to a young alumni, recognizing their character and citizenship, achievement or service rendered, honor and recognition received.

Jenni grew up in the Hutchinson area and graduated from Nickerson High School. By that time she was focused on going to medical school, but wanted to experience a broad range of other studies such as literature and writing, so she chose Bethel College, a liberal arts college. She graduated in 1998 receiving a BA degree with majors in natural sciences and psychology. During her junior year at Bethel, she met her future husband, Matthew Koontz, ’98, while on a skiing trip, and they were married following graduation.

Following graduation, the Koontz’s entered into Mennonite Voluntary Service in Hamilton, Ontario, for two years, where Jenni was a community development worker with North Hamilton Health Centre. Her work consisted of coordinating and supervising the Children’s Breakfast Program, establishing and maintaining a smoking cessation peer support group, assisting the HIV coordinator by conducting research and putting together patient education packets, and serving as a counselor in a summer camp for adults and children with HIV.

Returning from MVS, Jenni earned a master’s of public health (MPH) degree at the University of Kansas in 2001, and her medical degree from the KU School of Medicine. She completed her residency in 2008, the last year as chief resident with the Via Christi Family Medicine Residency Program in Wichita. She was board certified in family medicine in 2008, and now is working on a sports medicine fellowship at Via Christi.

Community service has been a part of her life since her first volunteer position at the Masonic Lodge in Wichita at the age of 11, where her mother worked at the time. Even as a busy teen-ager, she found time to provide service in nursing homes and as a Candy Striper at the Hutchinson Hospital.

As her education broadened, so did her service activities. While working on her MPH degree, she was a reading volunteer in a fourth-grade classroom in the public schools in Kansas City, and she continues her interest in that age group today working as a facilitator for “Ready, Set, Fit,” a program of the American Academy of Family Physicians presenting fitness and nutrition ideas to third and fourth grade students in the Wichita public schools. She is also a co-facilitator for the Clairon Project, a student multi-disciplinary team project to study new models of health-care reform.

While in medical school, she was the founder, and served as executive chairperson of JayDoc Free Clinic in Kansas City, Kansas, and helped found the JayDoc Community Clinic in Wichita, both student-run clinics for uninsured clients.

One of Jenni’s passions in life since childhood, is her interest and participation in sports. She has participated in all sports available to her from T-ball as a child to college sports. Her interest in sports medicine came from her Bethel student experiences as a member of the varsity volleyball, women’s basketball and track teams, serving as a team captain for both volleyball and basketball her senior year. She sustained a shoulder injury and later a knee injury, both requiring surgery. She served as a student trainer for Bethel teams while healing over an eight month period.

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Eldo Armand Peters Obituary—continued

winter of 1959, his father died leaving his mother and brother Harold alone on the farm at Walton. At that time his mother and Harold moved in with Eldo. His mother continued living with him until her death in 1980. At a later date Harold moved to a nursing home in Newton.

In 1988, Eldo moved to the Wheatland Homes in North Newton. His health forced him to move to Kidron Bethel in 2004.

Eldo’s brothers, Harold and Alfred, preceded him in death. He is survived by his brothers Irvin and wife Irma of Buhler and Edwin and wife Evelyn of Hesston. In addition, there are many nieces and nephews who mourn his passing.

BCMC MUSIC INTERN—2008-2009 **BY BEN HARDER**

The music intern position has afforded me a luxury that many aspiring musical directors never have: I got to conduct rehearsals and do performances with a different group every month, got to know people, learn how these ensembles operate, and then go learn with another group. This allowed me to see what I really love and what I don’t like as much in terms of the types of ensembles, the age of people, and the level of music. I have learned the kind of administrative work and planning that go into a church performance and into putting a whole service together.

This has also allowed me a new way to connect with other members of the congregation through an avenue that I am comfortable with. I’m not great at connecting with young children; but in working with the Cherub Choir and seeing them smile and be excited about singing, I could certainly relate to that feeling.

As a music intern I often felt that I was a more integral part of the Sunday morning worship. I often had a heightened sense of worshiping God as I lead people who were bringing their gift of music to God. It is an exciting thing, to stand in front of a group of people and wave your arms and hear music that reflects what you are doing, and to be doing it in God’s house, in the worship service is an even more exciting feeling.

I owe a great many thanks to all sorts of people who helped me and taught me things. I thank all of the members of the choirs and bell groups for allowing me to lead and never questioning whether I was qualified or adept at what I was attempting to do. I thank the directors for allowing me to work with their groups and giving helpful, constructive feedback to guide my conducting. I’d like to thank Ruth for being so flexible and working with my schedule and finding a way to make things work, and for presenting this great chance for me to be involved in church music. Lastly, I’d like to thank the congregation. Since I was a baby, I’ve been going to church on Sunday morning and hearing wonderful hymns and worship music. That has no doubt had a large impact on my direction in life, and I will be forever thinking of the great musical moments that I’ve been part of here at BCMC. At a recent meeting for “The Listening Project” from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary someone from outside the congregation mentioned that we, as a church were known for our particularly good music. It’s such an honor to be a part of that tradition, and I hope that it can continue on into the future.



Ben Harder

THE HOUSES I HAVE LIVED IN: A MEMOIR BY LELAND HARDER



Our dwelling places tell much about our circumstances, personality and values, and there they stand in full view for everyone to see and judge. Leland chose wisely when he picked as the platform for his memoirs, the 27 residences he occupied during his life of 82 years. That is an average of 3 years for each dwelling, an informative fact in its self. In this book the houses are dots, connected by a well-written text. As the story moves from house to house a picture emerges of one man’s life, a life of adventure, purpose, and passion. It is a good read, enhanced by numerous photos. I highly recommend it. You may obtain your copy by sending \$20.00 to Leland Harder, 2908-A, Ivy Drive, North Newton, KS 67117. ~ *Rosie Horst*

Bertha and Leland on the steps of house #17

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY KENNETH VOTH!



Kenneth Voth is the oldest of five children of William and Emma (Voth) Voth. (He says that he is doubly a “Voth!”) He was born April 8, 1929, while his parents were living in a little house in North Newton and his father attended Bethel College. The family moved several times during Kenneth’s elementary school years, due to his father’s teaching and farming work. Kenneth helped out with sheep, dairy cattle, pigs, and haying with horse teams, and was involved in 4-H. He began high school at the Bethel Academy, and graduated from Cullison High School.

Kenneth was baptized at First Mennonite Church in Walton, a congregation that his father helped to establish. Following graduation from Bethel College in 1951 with a degree in physics, Kenneth participated in choir tours to the west coast and to Europe. He served in 1-W service at Brooklane Mental Hospital in Maryland, where he met another volunteer, Hulda Reimer. They married in 1953 and later welcomed four children and three grandchildren into their family.

Kenneth worked as a chemist at Southwest Grease and Oil Company in Wichita, and in medical technology at Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Halstead and Wichita hospital labs. He then took a job at Vulcan Materials Company until retirement in 1982.

Special memories for Kenneth include family camping trips, square dancing with Hulda, and cruises with family. He earned a pilot’s license and owned a 1939 Taylorcraft 2-seater airplane with several other pilots.

In 1981 Kenneth and Hulda joined BCMC where he has sung in the Chancel Choir and participated in the Sojourners Sunday school class. He has given great support to Hulda since her stroke in 2005 and is thankful for the faith and love that sustains them both. On his 80th birthday, we pray for Kenneth the blessing of a favorite verse, Romans 8:28: “...all things work together for good for those who love God, and who are called according to God’s purpose.” ~ Heidi Regier Kreider

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY ROBERT UNRUH!



Robert (Bob) E. Unruh was born April 11, 1929 in Goessel, KS. He was the third child born to Jacob S. Unruh and Sara Friesen Unruh. Bob grew up on a farm southeast of Goessel together with his older brother Eskil and sister Charlene Stotzl. Bob and Charlene sang duets in their younger years and later, Bob and his son Jon carried on the duet tradition. Bob and his family attended Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton. Bob was baptized at Tabor May 25, 1947 by Rev. H.B. Schmidt. Thanks to music teachers like Herb Franz and pastor/teacher H.B. Schmidt, Bob’s interest in music began to develop in middle school and high school. As a high school student, Bob remembers leading choral music at Tabor church and directing high school band. He also remembers teaching himself how to play guitar after one of his grade school teachers brought a guitar and instruction manual to class. After high school graduation in 1947 Bob attended Bethel College and his musical interests grew under music directors like Walther Hohmann, David Suderman and James Bixel. Bob graduated from Bethel College with a Music Education degree in 1952. (He took a year off of school after his sophomore year in order to earn money for college. He worked at Mennonite Press.) While at Bethel, Bob needed an accompanist and that, he says, is how he met his future wife, Helen “Ruth” Jantzen. Ruth, now a retired piano teacher, and Bob were married June 19, 1953 at Beatrice Mennonite Church. Their son, Jon R. Unruh, lives in North Newton and is a BCMC Chancel Choir member.

From 1952-1955 while completing a Masters degree in musical education from Wichita State University, Bob taught K-12 grade music in Lehigh, KS. He and Ruth then moved to Kingman where he taught junior and senior high vocal music for 11 years. He also directed church choirs in Kingman. After Bob resigned as teacher he combined work as a postal clerk with piano tuning and repair. And after retirement from the post office in 1989 he became a full-time piano technician until 2004.

Bob has an interest in antique cars and had the family’s 1957 Chevrolet restored. He and Ruth also joined the Hutchinson Horseless Carriage Club. Bob continues to love music. He also knows an out-of-tune piano when he hears it! He sings with the Kidron Ensemble, using his “short-stop” or tenor voice and one of his favorite choral pieces is *Brahms’ Requiem*.

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Robert Unruh 80th birthday continued

Bob and Ruth became members at BCMC on November 19, 2006. They transferred their membership from First Mennonite Church in Hutchinson where they were members for 18 years. They are now retired BCMC choir members and they currently participate in the Catacombs Sunday School class. Bob, we wish you a happy 80th birthday. And using words by Leslie Groves, “may sweet music continue to lift your thoughts, transport your spirits, challenge your soul and give you rest.” ~ Ruth R. Harder

HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY SERENA WONG!



Serena Wong was born on May 7, 1997 in Newton, KS. She and her younger siblings, Jason and Kayla, live in North Newton with her mom and dad, Amy and Guy Wong. You may be familiar with them as the owner/operators of China Inn restaurant in the Alco plaza. Serena thinks she may get a chance to work there some day when she is in high school to save money for college. That day is a few years away for her as she is just turning twelve this May. Serena can’t quite remember how she first got involved with BCMC but she has been in Cherub Choir, Venture Club, Junior Choir, Junior High Club and Menno Ringers as well as attending Sunday school here.

Serena keeps herself busy with piano lessons and playing viola. She would really like to learn to play the oboe, as well. When she really wants to relax, she watches T.V., plays outside, or works with her sticker collection. She has collected probably over a thousand stickers and when pressed, she had no trouble coming up with “Snoopy” as her favorite one of all.

This soft spoken sixth grader from Santa Fe middle school is no pushover! She has many goals in life. Serena would like to bring back the popularity of the Peanuts’ character, Snoopy, because kids just don’t appreciate him as much as they used to and he is worthy of more respect. She would also like to see many different kinds of animals, such as whales and dolphins, in her lifetime. She may realize that goal if she becomes a marine biologist or a wildlife photographer, two of her future career choices.

The Wong family doesn’t get a chance to get away very often due to the family business, but they have managed to visit China and Serena has attended several Bible schools here in the states through a Chinese church.

Next time you see Serena at BCMC, take time to visit with her. Her optimism and forward thinking may even inspire you to set some new goals of your own! Happy Birthday, Serena! ~ Jeanette Leary

BETHEL COLLEGE OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS



J. Harold Moyer, composer and music arranger, will be honored at the annual Bethel College Alumni Banquet Saturday, May 23 when he receives the Outstanding Alumnus Award. As part of the banquet program, the Bethel College Concert Choir will sing several of Harold’s compositions and arrangements.

Harold grew up at Bethel College as a “campus kid” (his father, John F. Moyer, worked in the business office), graduated from Newton High School, and then attended Bethel College. After graduating from Bethel College Harold went to George Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn., where he earned a master of music degree with a composition major in 1951. He completed his Ph.D. in music composition at the University of Iowa in 1957. From 1957-59, Harold taught at Goshen (Ind.) College. The remainder of his career was spent at Bethel College where he taught music theory and composition from 1959 till his retirement in 1992. In addition to teaching, Harold continued composing and arranging. His works include a chamber opera, *The Double Crosser* (1959); *Benjamin Grede* (1961), an opera based on Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*; *The Blowing and the Bending* (1975), an opera about Kansas Mennonites’ experiences during World War I, with libretto by James C. Juhnke, Bethel professor emeritus of history; and the musical dramas *The Plow and the Sword* (1982) and *Dirk’s Exodus* (1990). *Dirk’s Exodus*, about 16th-century Anabaptist martyr Dirk Willems, was also a collaboration with Juhnke. In 1992, it won second place in a competition sponsored by the Association of Kansas Theatre for plays written by Kansas authors and produced in Kansas.

From 1960-67, Harold was involved in developing *The Mennonite Hymnal* (“the red hymnal”). Harold served as vice chair of the Joint Hymnal Committee. Thirteen of the hymns in *The Mennonite Hymnal* contain an original Moyer tune or harmonization. He has been active in the Kansas Mennonite Men’s Choir since 1971 and has written a number of anthems for the choir, which led to his relationship with the Mark Foster Music Co., Champaign, Ill., and publication of 14 of those anthems.

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