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April — May 2012 6:2



Worship and events schedule (Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates) 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.—Fellowship time 10:50 a.m.—Christian education

April 2012

April 1 — Palm Sunday
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Youth Bells, Junior Choir and Cherub Choir

April 8 — Easter
Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Chancel Choir — No Sunday school

April 15 Worship with Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells

April 22—Creation Care Sunday Worship planned by the Creation Care Committee

April 29 Preacher to be announced; music by Chancel Choir
Noon — Potluck in Fellowship Hall — all are invited
1:00 p.m. Congregational meeting in the Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Concert, *The Conversion of St. Paul* in the Sanctuary

May 2012
May 6 — Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Menno Ringers

May 13 — Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Junior Choir and Chancel Choir — Sunday school recognition and High School Senior recognition; Sabbatical release for Pastor Ruth R. Harder

May 20 — Bethel College Baccalaureate — No Sunday school

May 27 — Pentecost
Preacher to be announced; music by Chancel Bells



The Youth Room, Room 22, underwent a facelift, with the help of youth, Facilities Committee and custodian, Mike Crawford. It received fresh paint on the ceiling and walls, and the north wall is now painted with black chalkboard paint, couches were re-arranged and two new lamps were purchased. Come check it out and when you do, make sure and sign your name and leave a message on our new chalk board wall!



Venture Club had a great Spring session. Here Ron Sawatzky explains clock making to the club members.



The Junior High Club — BC · MC · JHC (pronounced Book · Muc · Jahook) also had a great Spring session. During one of their recent Wednesday night club gatherings, the BCMC junior high club raided the costume closet backstage at Bethel College. Pictured here is Aneka Voth, Daniel Wagoner, Jamel Brown, Sarah Turner, Zoe and Angus Siemens, Elizabeth Tran, Laura Tran, Jason Wong. Sponsors are Lu Ann Zook and Doug Siemens.

Community Playschool co-director steps down



persons are part of her family, and has a great appreciation for each of them. School for around 30 children is held Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to

11:00 a.m. with a snack break mid-morning. In addition to the children that they serve, she learns to know family members and many times greets them in the community when they meet outside of the church. Bonnie intends to continue at the Playschool on a volunteer basis, perhaps a couple times a week or as schedules allow. In talking to her the love for the people she serves is very evident, and obviously this job has been an enriching experience.

Thanks, Bonnie, for serving in this way, and we hope your volunteering and free time after you retire will be equally fulfilling to you. ~ Lois Goertzen

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Editorial committee: Karen Penner, Lois Goertzen, Ruth R. Harder and Monica Lichti

Cherub choir director retires



A new activity for children in grades 1 – 4 took place thirty-four years ago in 1978 when Norma Preheim started a Cherub Choir at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Norma spent her career as a public school music teacher in various locations prior to the move to Newton with her husband in 1977.

In 1997 when BCMC celebrated its 100th anniversary, children assisted by adults created a clay mural which includes children singing. The adult nearby is Norma Preheim. We are grateful for the commitment, time, effort and dedication that Norma shared through the years as director of the Cherub Choir. Our worship and life together has been enriched. ~ Norma J. Johnson

Over the years approximately 432 children sang in the choirs. The size of the Cherub Choir ranged from six to twenty-four members. In earlier years the Cherub Choir wore white capes with colored bows. In more recent years when enrollment was small, kindergarten children were added to the choir and the fourth graders moved to the Junior Choir. Teaching children to sing is only one of Norma's primary goals. She and her sister, Florine,

creatively use illustrated posters during rehearsals to help the children memorize the words and give meaning to the text. CDs of each song are made and sent home to aid in the learning process and provide preparation for the worship service. The children delight in placing stickers on the attendance charts and enjoy taking turns bringing a snack at the end of rehearsals. Norma appreciates the help of parents, her sister, Florine Eitzen, and all the accompanists who have been so faithful throughout the years.

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Norma retires continued

The centennial mural with Norma standing at the right



We are putting together a scrapbook of memories for Norma Preheim's retirement. If you have a special message, a picture or a memory of choir for Norma, please place these on an 8 1/2" x 11" paper and return to the church office. Everything received will be compiled into one scrapbook.



The 2011-2012 Cherub Choir at BCMC

India, polio and rotary international by Frank Stucky

It will take two more years of diligence and immunizations to declare India free of the dreaded polio disease even though no new cases have been reported in the past 12 months. My son, Nate, and I were part of a team of 24 Rotarians from all over the United States who traveled to India to participate in this massive immunization effort. The experience will shape our lives for years to come. Rotary International's first interest in polio eradication came in 1979 with a pledge to immunize six million children in the Philippines. In 1985 Rotary made a pledge of \$120 million dollars toward the polio eradication campaign, now known as Polio Plus throughout the world. Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria are only just a handful of countries that still have new reported cases of polio. In

1988 in India alone, over 350,000 new cases per year were reported. Now world numbers are around 700 last year. Our efforts were centered in the Bihar region of India; a region of extreme poverty among many, but also great wealth from coal mining and steel manufacturing. The city of Dhanbad, a town of approximately three million people was the focal point of our immunization effort. The government of India, along with the World Health Organization or WHO, have joined the effort along with UNICEF and many others. Nearly 1.25 billion people live in India, the most densely populated country in the world, so it takes 2.3 million health workers and volunteers to immunize on a single National Immunization Day – nearly 174 million children! It's an incredible effort;

people and money make it possible. Over \$9 billion has been spent worldwide so far in this effort. While we did give the vaccine to many children, our main role was to demonstrate by our willingness to travel so far to be there to help, the importance of the total effort being carried out by the local health workers. It was thrilling to go to many different vaccination locations and actually administer the vaccine. Polio is spread among humans, primarily children, through infected feces in unsanitary conditions, and we witnessed open sewers, very little plumbing and almost a total lack of public toilets. It is a land of contrasts with modern looking concrete structures and immense poverty with many people living in structures consisting of sticks, tarps, cow dung, corrugated tin or anything they could find. Pollution and dust hang over everything. People sweep the dirt, but there is more dirt underneath. Garbage is everywhere, and cattle, dogs and children are digging through it. The potential for the spread of disease is great. Traffic is horrific, as three-wheeled Tuc Tucs, canvas covered scooters designed for three people but carrying 12, on the road with bicycles, people walking, camels, horses, elephants, trucks and thousands of motor bikes and cars all fighting for space. Waters and rivers are polluted with people washing cows while people are bathing and washing clothes. Unemployment is high and poverty immense, but the people of India are a proud, happy, smiling, peace loving people who dress and carry themselves well. It is a country of huge disparity between rich and poor, but we were treated exceptionally well by people

everywhere. Our Rotarian host families were very generous of their time and resources. India is a land of promise where 60% of the adults are literate and where democratic ideals are prized. With the firm resolve of India's government, polio will be eliminated there and soon from the face of the Earth. Millions of children will be spared the effects of the crippling disease. While in India we were able to travel by plane, bus, car, train, and tuc tuc to see some of the historic sites such as Agra, home of the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort or Red Fort. It's not as famous as the white carved marble Taj Mahal, but very impressive for a 15th-16th century palace. We also saw a number of temples including the Sikh and Hindu temples in Old Delhi. A trip to Bodh Gaya gave Nate and me a view of the Buddhist temples there as well as the legendary place of enlightenment of the Buddha. Outside the gate to the Stupa at Bodh Gaya, workers were threshing rice by beating sheaves against rotating bars while others were winnowing the grain from the chaff in the wind. Farming on the small plots we saw was done by oxen or by hand with people planting rice and the wheat crop nearly ready for harvest. The weather gets very hot there, 120 degrees or so, but in the winter dry season a steady upper 70's to low 80's was very pleasant the entire month. Curried vegetarian dishes of all kinds were served three times a day with curried snacks for tea in between meals. We found chicken curry was served in the restaurants but not in homes. Beef was not on the menu.

Continued next page



Did you know that Miner and Valetta Seymour went to Cameron, Louisiana from Feb. 19-25 and helped to build two homes in an area that lost many homes from Hurricane Rita in 2005, and Hurricane Ike in 2008. Miner helped build railings to these homes built on 12-foot stilts(now required by building code), and Valetta painted exterior siding as well as interior trim, doors, and walls. Meeting the people of Cameron made for a very interesting experience, and helping them rebuild was gratifying.



Did you know that the Newton Rec Center is full of BCMC'ers in the morning, and all before 6:00 a.m.?! Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 5:30-6:30 a.m., you can find Margaret Goering, Victoria Janzen, Stahli Claassen, Edgar Smith (our coach who was celebrating his birthday the morning we took this photo), George Leary, Esther Koontz, Monica Schmidt and Ruth R. Harder moving cars around in the parking lot, doing "dead insects" (ask George what those are), complaining and telling jokes—all in good fun. Meanwhile, many others from BCMC are inside the rec center on the treadmills or lifting weights. Edgar, our coach, tells us that we're "the best in the Midwest." He also wonders if God isn't trying to tell him something with all these Mennonites "swarming" around him. ~ Ruth R. Harder



BCMCC Kaleidoscope

Pastor's Corner—Baffled and Thrilled by Difference by Ruth R. Harder



Several weeks ago, my husband turned to me during breakfast and said, "Did you know they are

having March Madness again this year?" To be fair, I don't think my husband is that out of the loop. In fact, I think he said it just to annoy me. After all, we don't exactly see eye to eye or share the same love for sports, sci-fi, theological books or cartoons. In some ways, we are very different and this difference can, at times, feel both baffling and thrilling. We all probably have similar moments when we are baffled and thrilled by difference. Whether it is a partner, family member, colleague, student, community or church member or a political candidate, we have many times when difference feels both enlivening and exhausting. Even among those who share many of the same values and commitments, differences can often make living together and understanding each other difficult, if not impossible. Just ask any college students what it is like to live with their closest friends. As one student put it, "it's the best-worst thing ever!" It's not easy to admit this but I often find it hard to remain open to difference without over-romanticizing difference. Unfortunately, there are some

differences or there are some relationships that can't and shouldn't be viewed through rose-colored glasses. In fact, there are differences that will make us downright angry and it's not healthy in the long run simply to minimize or suppress those angry feelings. There are times when we need to speak up and express our anger or confusion. And so, sometimes it feels like a bit of a conundrum—how do we remain open to difference without losing our way (or our sanity!) in the process? I remember participating once in a guided reflection where the leader asked us to pray for people whom we love. "Over each of them say a blessing," she said, "and imagine that your words create a protective shield of grace around them." Fine, I thought. I can do that. Then, she asked us to move to people whom we don't see eye to eye with. "Over each of them say a blessing," she said, "and imagine that your words create a protective shield of grace around them." That was tougher. It's probably too idealistic or naïve to think that we could all suddenly start praying for those we disagree with in a consistent, loving manner. And yet, I think this could be a profound practice, and has the potential, over time, to heal some of our attitudes, wounds and fears. On a personal note, I think that as I watch the NCAA basketball tournament this year, I'm going to imagine a protective shield of grace around Jesse, who will no doubt be reading *The Lord of the Rings* as far away from the t.v. as possible. Maybe, just maybe, he'll imagine a protective shield around me too.

The BCMC Pacifists and the WDC Basketball Tournament

Western District Conference held the church basketball tournament at the college the weekend of March 15, 16, and 17. Pictured here who played for BCMC are Cliff Dick, Adam Robb, Matt Schloneger, Jenni Koontz, Matt Koontz, Ruth Harder and Mike Claassen. Others who played but not on the picture were Chris Nelson, Joel Gaeddert and Dave Kreider. Jesse Graber was at the stats table.

Obituaries



Margaret Joy Regier Rich
October 2, 1917 – February 5, 2012

Margaret Joy Regier Rich, 94, had been a resident of Kidron Bethel Village, North Newton, for 12 years. She was born in Freeman, S.D., on Oct. 2, 1917. Her parents were A.J. and Suzanne (Bargen) Regier. She married Dr. Eldon S. Rich on Aug. 25, 1938. She moved to Newton as a child and spent most of her life in Kansas, including years in Lawrence, Kansas City, Goessel and Buhler, before returning to Newton in 1956. A dedicated homemaker, Margaret was also an active community volunteer, serving her neighbors in the Bethel College Mennonite church, Bethel Hospital Auxiliary, Et Cetera Shop, the Newton public schools and the Bethel College board of directors. Margaret cherished many travel experiences and was passionate in her support of family, education and service to others. Margaret's survivors include five children and their spouses: Robert (Susan) Rich of Birmingham, Ala., Barbara (DuMont) Schmidt of White-water, William (Kathleen) Rich of Topeka, Mary (Robert) Jabara of Wichita and Carolyn (Timothy) Voth of Topeka; 14 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. Preceding Margaret in death, in addition to her parents and husband, were her sisters, Frances Horan, Winifred Ewy, Donna Klaassen and Betty Wasser, and grandson, William Rich Voth. She was a life-long member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church.



Rosella Margaret Dick Toevs
November 13, 1921 – March 15, 2012

Rosella M. Toevs, 90, of North Newton, Kansas, was born on November 13, 1921 in her family home of rural Inman, Kansas to Rev. Abraham J. and Margaret (Schmidt) Dyck. She married Kenneth L. Toevs on April 11, 1945 at Hoffnung-sau Mennonite Church. He died April 17, 1991. Rosella grew up on a farm and attended schools in Inman County. She received her elementary grade school teaching degree at Bethel College and taught for 3 years in a one room school at Lake Valley of rural Inman. After marriage, she and her husband farmed in the Whitewater community for over 44 years from 1947-1990. She was very active in the Emmaus Mennonite Church, directing children and adult choirs, organizing and serving in the women's mission society and teaching adult Sunday school classes. She served as a leader in the local 4-H club teaching knitting and cooking classes and volunteered at the local Etcetera Shop and various Mennonite Central Committee relief projects. In 1990, she and Kenneth moved to North Newton where she remained active in church and community for many years. She is survived by children, Russ and Gail Toevs, Carol and Larry Entz, Rich Toevs and six grandchildren; sisters-in-law Edie Krehbiel and Arlene Dyck and brother-in-law Herman Toevs. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth, sisters Hulda Enns (Waldo), Lena Martens (Menno), Bertha Toevs, Alma Dyck; brother Abe Dyck, and brother-in-law, Art Toevs.



Esther Frieda Ratzlaff Schrag
March 23, 1916—March 20, 2012

Esther Frieda Ratzlaff Schrag, 95, was the youngest of six children, born on the family farm near Meno, Oklahoma, to Rev. John J. Ratzlaff and Mary Decker Ratzlaff. She was baptized and joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church on May 22, 1932. She was a member of First Mennonite in McPherson, Eden Mennonite in Moundridge, and Bethel College Mennonite Church. June 12, 1943, she married John O. Schrag. John and their two daughters Sandra Zerger and Rebecca Fretz survive her and sons-in-law John D. Zerger and Thomas H. Fretz.; grandchildren Jonathan Zerger (Heather Esau), Mark Fretz (Wibke Wojanowski), Brian Zerger (Kristin Bohnenblust), and Amy Kristine Fretz (deceased), six great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and brother-in-law Milo Schrag (Ann), sister-in-law Dorothy Schrag. Her family moved to Newton in 1926. She graduated from Newton High School in 1934 and from Bethel College in 1938 with a B. S. in Home Economics. She was a home demonstrator of washing machines, ironers, and other products for Bendix Corporation in Kansas City and with Hallmark Cards. She taught home economics in Goessel and Hillsboro before her daughters were born and in McPherson once they were in school. The family spent two years in alternative service in Aibonito and Pugnillas, Puerto Rico. After retirement, she and John served in voluntary service on three Native American reservations. Her siblings (all deceased) were Ruie Ratzlaff (Henry) Becker, Walter Ratzlaff (Alice), Sadie Ratzlaff Harms (Edwin), Paul Ratzlaff, Kathryn Ratzlaff Blair (Milford).



Martha I. Harms
October 8, 1909 – April 2, 2012

Martha I. Harms, daughter of the late Dr. John H. and Mrs. Maggie (Kliewer) Harms, was born at Cordell, Oklahoma, one of ten siblings. Upon baptism at the age of 16, she became a member of the rural Sihar Mennonite Church northeast of Cordell. She received her elementary and high school education in Cordell. From Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She also received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. Martha was a teacher for 14 years: ten in Kansas public schools and four in a college in Oklahoma. She gave up teaching to become an optical dispenser in Wichita for two ophthalmologists, one of whom was her brother. Several years after retirement, she moved to Newton, Kansas, and soon joined the Bethel College Mennonite Church, where for a number of years she was on the visitation team. Her interest in writing led her to join the Newton Area Writers' Fellowship. In 1990, she purchased an apartment in Kidron Bethel Village in North Newton, Kansas, and served on the Kidron Bethel Retirement Services board for three years. At Kidron, she was on the social committee, played piano for sing-along's in Healthcare, sang in Kidron choir programs, and helped check out books brought out by the Newton Library Enlite program. She was preceded in death by: Walter Harms, Ruth Pankratz, Minnie Harms, Frank Harms, John Harms, Edwin Harms and two infant siblings. She is survived by her brother Harold Harms.

India continued

Clean drinking water was provided in many areas by wells with a hand pump but clean water is still a problem for many Indians. Schools we visited for the underprivileged and handicapped were very basic and nearly devoid of equipment, but learning goes on.

Rotarians were running hospitals, surgery centers, eye care centers, schools, artificial limb centers for polio victims, heart hospitals, etc. All is an effort to help their fellow man and their communities. The need is great in India, but the will to help and serve is up to the challenge.



Some reflections from Nate:

The trip overall was a very eye opening and rewarding experience. Being a part of the National Immunization Day 2012 was very special. After visiting a polio surgery center and seeing the horrible effects the polio disease has on people, you think to yourself if I can just help one kid be immunized then I have accomplished something because you know that one child will not have to experience the horrid effects brought on by polio.



To: Bethel College Mennonite Church
Date: February 26, 2012
From: Nathan Toews

Working with Anabaptist Churches in Colombia

This spring I will complete a master's degree in Conflict Transformation at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. As part of the program I am serving as an intern with the Mennonite Central Committee in Colombia working with an Anabaptist church committee to better understand the impact churches have had on people affected by the armed conflict in Colombia. Many Anabaptist churches in Colombia have felt the calling to act as witnesses and accompany those who have been displaced from their homes, have had loved ones taken from them and have been pushed to the margins of society where both government and civil society pay them little attention.

The church body has become a source of safety and community for people who are running from threats and attempting to reconstruct a new life. By providing material, social and spiritual needs, churches help create a space where individuals and families can begin to think about *living* a life. One example of this work is a weekly session called a "Moment for Peace". People from the church community come to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the effects of the armed conflict and their own spirituality. Many of the participants have been displaced themselves and are energized to share their experiences in a safe place with others who will listen. Some of the participants have been trained as "grassroots therapists" who have

volunteered to act as listeners to anyone who feels the need to share their story. Often newly displaced people have heard about this space and come looking for safety and a community that will accompany them in their time of need.

As a graduate student I have decided to assist the committee in learning more about what brings churches to become involved in this work and how church accompaniment has impacted the lives of displaced people. Have people been able to begin a process of healing from the atrocities in their lives? What aspects of the accompaniment have been most helpful as they reconstruct new lives?

In the short time I have been here I have seen the incredible strength people have as they come out of isolation and embrace a new community. This is not an easy process, as many people do not know whom to trust when they come to a new place. With open arms and an emphasis on personal and communal relationships, people have found new lives in several Anabaptist churches.

Just four years ago you, BCMC, supported me in my journey to Colombia with the Christian Peacemaker Teams. The energy and inspiration from that trip has brought me back to Colombia to continue work in understanding the dynamics of this context. With over five million people displaced from their homes, the events in Colombia do not happen in a vacuum. As fellow brothers and sisters we all have a role in this story. Please keep the people of Colombia in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you.
~ Nathan Toews

Editor's note: Nathan is in the graduate program at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding which is part of EMU. He will be graduating on April 29, 2012 with an MA in Conflict Transformation.



Nathan Toews

Vocational Sisters and Pioneers at BCMC

One Sunday, I realized I was surrounded by women who had served as pastors of BCMC and other Mennonite congregations in the past nearly 40 years. So we gathered one afternoon for sharing, remembering and learning from each other's stories.

Anne Neufeld Rupp was the first woman ordained in the Central District Conference (1976) and served 12 years as congregational pastor in Indiana and Kansas. **Dorothea Janzen** was first licensed for ministry by the Western District Conference in 1973 but ordained in 1981 while co-pastoring with her husband, Heinz, and served 18 years in pastoral ministry in Kansas—including seven years as Associate Pastor at BCMC. **Patricia Shelly** was the first woman ordained in the former Rocky Mountain Mennonite Conference in a dual-conference event with Western District Conference in 1985. Patty served for two years in Denver before coming to Bethel College and BCMC. **Heidi Regier Kreider** was the first woman ordained in the Southeast Mennonite Conference in 1994 while pastoring in Florida and continues in Kansas as

Continued next page

Pastor of BCMC for a total of 21 years in pastoral ministry. **Dorothy Nickel Friesen** was ordained in 1985 by both South Central Conference (second woman to be ordained) and Western District and has been a congregational pastor for 16 years in Kansas and Ohio. **Norma Johnson** was ordained in 1990 while a member of BCMC but serving as Executive Secretary for the Commission on Education for the General Conference Mennonite Church. Of course, we all know she later served as Associate Pastor here for 10 years. **Ruth R. Harder** was ordained in 2009 (by Dorothy) and is in her fifth year as Associate Pastor of BCMC. **Susan Wheeler** was licensed toward ordination by South Central Conference in 2005 but ordination was put on hold until completing her Seminary education. Now Susan serves as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at BCMC and in 2010 the WDC licensed her toward ordination. That's a grand total of 86 years—and counting—of congregational leadership in Mennonite Church USA and in the community of BCMC. Thanks be to God! Who's next?

~ Dorothy Nickel Friesen

**Happy 80th birthday
Thelma Bartel!**



Thelma Bartel was born May 1st, 1932, in Hillsboro, KS. As Rosina and Albert Bartel's third child,

Thelma had two older siblings, a brother and a sister, and then little brother Melvin completed their family unit. She happily recalls that when she was four years old the family moved to the Bethel College campus because her father was called to be in charge of major building. For Thelma, being a "campus kid" was a privilege and a joy. She remembers the Goerz House porch as a favorite place to meet and to play with other campus kids, as well as softball games in the lot where the Bethel College Mennonite Church now stands. She has fond memories of ball games at the college, wearing a grey skirt and maroon sweater, hanging around the cheerleaders,

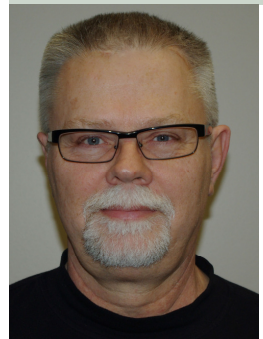
and even being asked to substitute once in awhile! Memories of high school years include being a Hall Monitor, working in the library as well as taking part in a couple of musical productions. As a teen Thelma was baptized in the Bethel College chapel by Lester Hostetler. She wore a white dress that had been lovingly made by her mother. The summer of '51 she worked at the Anderson Bookstore. In 1954 Thelma graduated from Bethel College with a major in physical education and studies in art. Thelma was employed at the Bethel Deaconess and Newton Medical Center Hospital dietary departments for over 30 years. She was a member of the Organization for Business and Professional Women for 48 years and in 1999 earned the honor of being named Woman of the Year.

A date that stands out particularly in Thelma's memory is June 9, 1965, the day of the big flood in Newton. Thelma's house at 125 W. 15th Street had four feet of water in it; an event that upset her life for a while afterwards! An interest in architecture (she has many books about floor plans) has

played out in her life as she became charter member in the Harvey County Historical Architecture Association. Throughout life Thelma has loved music and worship. Her exceptional commitment to the BCMC choir was well celebrated and documented in the October-November, 2008, *Kaleidoscope Newsletter*. When commissions at BCMC were instituted Thelma was recorder for Worship Commission. Now-a-days, with life at a somewhat quieter pace, Thelma enjoys reading biographies. She has an amazing collection of lovely and unique flower pins, as well as many, many pens and pencils sporting company logos. She names the hymn, *Praise God from whom*, number 118 in *Hymnal a Worship Book*, as the song of praise residing in her heart. Thelma, may this 80th year of your life add new joys. May warm memories bring you happiness and peace and may God bless you richly.

~ Susan Wheeler

**Glen Ediger Receives 2012
Bethel College Outstanding
Alumnus Award**



Our church family is proud of the award that member Glen Ediger will accept at the Bethel

College Alumni Banquet on May 19—the 2012 *Outstanding Alumnus Award*. Glen has come a long way since he stood in line to register as a freshman at Bethel College. He tells the story: "I had no idea what I would declare as my major when standing in line to enroll as a freshman at Bethel. When I got to the table, I decided I would major in art." His destiny was set. Glen went on to graduate from Bethel with a major in art and a minor in industrial arts. Bob Regier, his faculty advisor, was influential in Glen's art major, and it was in college where he discovered graphic design. He describes his liberal arts education at Bethel as one that prepared him for the professional career he has enjoyed. Another key mentor in Glen's career was Lloyd Smith, with whom he worked at S/V Tool Co. after graduation, including a partnership on design projects.

As a young boy, Glen was curious how things worked. His play included taking things apart and putting them back together. With pencil in hand, he would draw as he imagined how the objects he drew might work. This laid the foundation for Glen's career as a designer, consultant, model builder and inventor. He has nearly 100 U.S. patents and nearly as many foreign

patents to his name. One can go to many places in the world and see items he has designed, beginning at Graber Hardware here in Newton. The recipient of design awards, he has had pieces exhibited across the United States. Glen is Director of Design at Vornado Air near Wichita where he has been employed for 23 years, leading in marketing and engineering. Glen says, "I still enjoy going to work everyday."

Glen has volunteered for various local and regional agencies, including serving on boards. He is currently president of the Kauffman Museum board of directors. He thoroughly enjoyed the 13 years he led the Venture Club at BCMC, learning to know many of our young people, beginning with Jesse Woolery to Jonathan Baloo.

Watch for the results of another project he is working on—*leave no threshing stone unturned*—as he researches and writes about the Mennonite threshing stone, brought to the United States by Russian Mennonites. He works on this project daily. It is his goal for the book to be available by this year's Bethel College Fall Fest that will include pictures of many of the threshing stones he has discovered.

Congratulations, Glen, on receiving a well-deserved Outstanding Alumnus Award!
~ Karen Penner

**Holy Land or War Zone?
By Lee Suderman**

My experience over the years had well oriented me to the idea that the Lands of the Bible were often no longer the idyllic scenes portrayed in our beautifully illustrated Bible Encyclopedias. But the absence of peace and goodwill

Announced at the birth of our Savior that night in Bethlehem that I observed during my recent visit to the Holy Land, troubled me more than I could have possibly imagined.

This trip was specifically designed to identify and educate advocates for non-violent resolution of the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict through loving acts of reconciliation, forgiveness and justice. We began with an international conference in Bethlehem entitled "Christ at the Checkpoint" to address the destructive effect of human rights violations against Palestinian and Arab people. The 600 attendees also included several prominent Anabaptist leaders.

Issues of special concern included restrictive travel, the wall and confrontations over Israeli settlements, the impact of Zionism, and also of policies by the U.S. and other Western countries that bring with them serious discriminatory results. We concluded, then, with a seven day tour of the region to hear from all sides of the issues. This included discussions about political, military, religious, cultural and historical issues, as well as the economic, educational and social effects that the conflict has on all parties involved.

When asked to share an experience with someone that had pierced my heart, I related my interaction with a 13 year old boy name Amir

Whom I met wandering on the street in Bethlehem. He was eager to talk and when I asked whether he was in school he said, "No, school is too far away through the checkpoint, and my mother has no money to send me or my five brothers and sisters." Inquiring about his father, Amir pointed like shooting a gun and said, "Dead—Israeli soldier." Concerning what he would like to do if he could go to school, he shrugged his shoulders and sadly expressed no aspirations for his future.

When I showed Amir a picture of my family, he asked if I'd be his father. I said that wouldn't be possible but I would be his friend. I bought several flues "so he could give his mother the money for food." His parting words were that I would send all my friends out to the sidewalk to buy his flutes. And my heart ached for all the other Amris in the region who will have no dreams unless someone helps them experience a peaceful future very soon. Otherwise, noted a Malkite priest, "Our only hope is to reserve more land for graves."

If you wish to read more about the Arab-Israeli conflict the following books are recommended:

- *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour
- *The Muslim Next Door* by Sumbul Ali Karamali
- *Under Vine and Fig Tree* by Alain Epp Weaver
- *What is Palestine/Israel?* By Sonia K. Weaver



Some of the members of the conference. Lee is on the right side. Shlomo Mollo, a member of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) is the man in the middle (with the necktie).

With our members

Anniversary
Linda and Monty Frey — 25th Wedding Anniversary April 17 — **Congratulations!**



Child Dedications
Brett Isaac Gaeddert, son of Joel and Crystal Gaeddert, North Newton was dedicated at BCMC on March 18

Miles Benjamin King, son of Ethan and Amy King was dedicated at BCMC on March 25



Pictured from left to right — Back row: Norma Johnson, Heidi Regier Kreider, Ann Neufeld Rupp Front row: Dorothy (Dotty) Janzen, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Patty Shelly, Susan Wheeler and Ruth R. Harder

With our members continued

Transfers
Donald Fast requested a change to wider fellowship membership; he has joined First United Methodist Church in Wichita, KS

- Births**
- Grace Ann Brubacher born March 3 to Ann Brubacher and Pablo Ceres, Boulder, CO
 - Venezia Hadassah Woolery born March 22 to Jesse and Libby Woolery, Denton, TX