

# KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

August — September 2011/5:4



## CHRIS WAGONER LOOKS FORWARD TO YEAR OF SERVICE



On August 21, Chris Wagoner, will begin a 10 ½ month Service Adventure assignment in Raleigh, North Carolina. Service Adventure is a Mennonite Mission Network service program for post-high school young adults, ages 17-20. Like Ben Kreider who just completed a Service Adventure experience, Chris will live in community with several other young adults, serve in a local agency for 35-40 hours per week, and become involved in the ministry of the hosting congregation (Raleigh Mennonite Church), all under the guidance of a unit leader. One of the program objectives is “to provide young adults the opportunity to explore the Christian faith and what a relationship with Jesus means as they live in community with others and as they become part of a local faith community.” Furthermore, participants are expected “to become involved in issues and activities of the local community and a local Mennonite congregation, share in a household where a simple lifestyle is affirmed and caring relationships are nurtured, and demonstrate compassionate service

which honors and imitates Jesus Christ’s love for all people, especially those who suffer from injustice.” Chris looks forward to this opportunity of learning and growth, and he asks for your prayers as he prepares and begins this new venture. We will have a commissioning service for Chris on Sunday, July 31, and the following people will serve on Chris’ support team:

Naomi Graber, Ben Kreider, Jim and Lonabelle Yoder, Frances Toews and Ruth R. Harder.

~ Ruth R. Harder

## BCMC INTERN FOR 2011-2012

My name is Peter Wintermote and I will be a senior at Bethel College. I am studying Social Work and my minor is Bible and Religion. I went to Hesston College for two years from 2007-2009 and studied Youth Ministry. After taking a year off and living at home to work and pay some student loans, I transferred to Bethel College in 2010. My family currently lives in Hillsboro, Kansas where my father is the lead pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church and my mom works at a child daycare at the Mennonite Brethren church. I have two brothers, ages 17 and 13, and a sister age nine. I was born in Homestead, Florida while my parents were serving in Voluntary Service at a migrant camp. I have lived in six states in the last 22 years because of my dad's occupation. This summer I have been living in Hillsboro and working at the grain elevator in town. My hobbies include singing, listening to music and playing a little guitar. I have been heavily involved in the church and have held the positions of junior high youth minister, fifth and sixth grade Wednesday evening leader, junior high Sunday school teacher, usher and vacation Bible school leader. Also for the last two Mennonite Conventions in Columbus, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I have served as a junior high group leader. I applied for the youth ministry intern position at Bethel College Mennonite Church because I thoroughly enjoy working with youth and find that God really works through them to serve His greater kingdom. Since graduating high school I have had a very strong connection with junior high and senior high youth and love ministering to them. When this position as youth ministries intern opened up, I applied right away and have been very excited ever since. I know that God has given me special gifts to work in the church with youth, and I want to follow this calling and passion.



During this coming school year, as I serve in this youth ministry position, I hope to learn more about youth ministry and how God is working through youth for the future of the church. For the church to stay alive for the next 10-20 years we need today's youth to step up and continue God's ministry. I want to show the youth the importance of God's calling in each one of their lives and to show them the special gifts that they have been given. I hope to experience a further sense of calling to youth ministry and to more clearly see what God has for me after college. I also look forward to being a part of Bethel College Mennonite Church and forming strong relationships with fellow believers within this congregation. I feel God has called me to this special position and place at this time in my life.

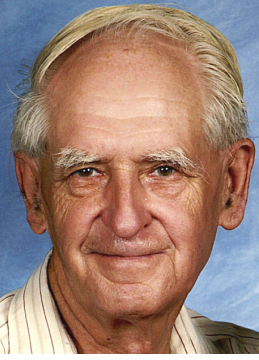
~ Peter Wintermote

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## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY DWIGHT PLATT!



Dwight Platt will celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 4. He was born in Chicago, IL, to Rev. Ferry Luther Platt, Jr. (a Congregational minister) and Selma Rich Platt (a teacher and founder of Meadowlark Homestead mental health center). Dwight identifies “signposts” that have shaped his spiritual journey:

1. Interest in the natural world: As a child, he was invited by a neighboring farmer to help with farm chores and observe the out-of-doors.
2. The death of Dwight’s father when Dwight was 6 years old, and the death of his brother when Dwight was 13.
3. His mother’s influence: Her involvement in the civil rights and peace movements provided a stimulating environment for Dwight. He also became aware of hostility against pacifists (his mother resigned from a teaching job due to opposition to her peace position).
4. Rebelling against dogmatic religion, while in junior high school.
5. Becoming more interested in moral aspects of religion while in high school: He wondered, “Does it make sense that intelligent purposeful humans with moral sensitivities would evolve out of a mechanistic, purposeless universe?” He joined the Crete (NE) Congregational Church - where the pastor happened to be a Bethel College graduate and later a Bible and religion faculty member - and transferred membership to BCMC in 1945 when his family moved to Newton.
6. Graduation from Newton High School and attendance at Bethel College (1948-52): Interactions with faculty and fellow students made this an important time of growth both socially and spiritually. Dr J. H. Langenwalter, who had retired to the Bethel campus, was an important spiritual counselor for many years. Dwight graduated with a major in biology.
7. Refusal to register with the Selective Service system after turning 18 in 1949: This resulted in Dwight serving six months in federal prison in Springfield, MO, a time to reflect further on his own convictions. [see the poem “Black or Gold” which Dwight wrote in prison]
8. Graduate school at the University of Kansas, where Dwight received an MA and PhD in zoology. It was at KU in a Wesley Foundation cell group that Dwight met LaVonne Godwin.
9. Three and one-half years of voluntary service with the American Friends Service Committee in India, where Dwight was also influenced by the Gandhian movement. Dwight and LaVonne were married in India; when they returned to the U.S. in 1957, he joined the Bethel faculty.
10. The March on Washington: In summer 1963, Dwight and LaVonne were traveling in the southeast and stopped in Washington to participate in the march – not realizing then how historic it would be. In 1965, he and other community members (Dolores Wedel, Vern Preheim and Adolf Enns) and Bethel students participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery. He is still inspired by the civil rights movement, an example of the potential for change in a society now facing environmental and societal breakdown, and the growing gap between the affluent and the poor.

All of these experiences have shaped a spiritual journey convicting Dwight of the primacy of the relational values of love, nonviolence and justice in a religious commitment. Dwight retired from Bethel College in 1996. He continues to garden, observe and care for nature (with special interest in birds, snakes and butterflies), and participates in the Seekers Sunday school class at BCMC. What a gift it is to have Dwight’s wisdom, experience, deep convictions and gentle sense of humor among us in the BCMC community! May his life be blessed with God’s shalom in the coming years. ~ Heidi Regier Kreider

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### Black or Gold

A meadowlark, with breast of black and gold,  
On vibrant wings did flutter o’er my head,  
And from his swelling bosom showered forth,  
Glad melodic notes of heavenly birth.

Could this be merely issue of a Primal Cause?  
A section from the page of Ultimate Law?  
A complex, interacting, integrated Whole,  
Of chemic change or basic energy?

And then the scenery did change within the aisle of  
my perception  
And I did see a babe with timorous cry, clutching at his  
dying mother,  
While all around fell insults, taunts, and stones,  
Thrown by a fear-mad, hating human race.

Is this pitiful shred of mighty man,  
Latent with dynamic dormant possibilities,  
Merely another complex automat built up of  
glands and neuro-electric waves?  
A complex edifice of earth below, to crumble and decay  
back to the dust?

From the silence of the secret pit within my soul,  
A murmuring, both soft and low, “No, this can’t be so.”  
There is here more than flesh and blood can know,  
The ever-present spirit of the Living God.

~ Dwight Platt

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MARY ANN JOST!



Mary Ann (Heiser) Jost was born August 24, 1931, in Fisher, IL, to parents Jesse Heiser and Laura (Good) Heiser. Mary Ann recalls spending many childhood years at the family-run grocery store called Heiser and Ingold, a business that remains in the family. Her church, East Bend Mennonite Church, was another significant place during Mary Ann's growing years; she was baptized in 1942. Following high school, Mary Ann attended Goshen College and graduated in 1955 with a degree in Home Economics. Mary Ann then had a two-year teaching stint at Freeman Junior College in South Dakota. This is where she met her future husband, Walter Jost. Mary Ann then left Freeman and completed her Master's degree at The University of IL and after that, she taught at a school in Los Angeles, CA, for two years while Walter completed his P.h.D. Mary Ann and Walter were married on August 12, 1960 at Mary Ann's home church in Fisher. Then it was off to North Newton, KS, for Walter and Mary Ann, their home now for 50 plus years. In 1960, as they settled into the North Newton community, Mary Ann taught Home Economics at Tabor College for two

years and soon after, Walter and Mary Ann welcomed son, Scott, and daughter, Lora, into their family life. In 1966, Mary Ann became the first director of Community Playschool continuing in this role for five years; she would resume the role as director again in later years. Upon moving to North Newton in 1960, Walter and Mary Ann became members at Bethel College Mennonite Church. Mary Ann especially remembers the teaching and preaching of BCMC former pastor, Russell Mast. Mary Ann was the Director of Christian Education at BCMC for five years, a highlight of which was working on Vacation Bible School curriculum with church leaders such as Judy Friesen. Mary Ann contributed to church life in other ways such as co-writing the early childhood portion of the *Foundation Series* Sunday school curriculum. Mary Ann also served as a Church Board member and Deacon. Her community involvement over the years includes serving as a substitute teacher for Community Playschool and serving on the North Newton City Council. In more recent years, Mary Ann has been writing the history of Heiser and Ingold grocery store, a project that is nearly completed. Her hobbies include reading and spending time with her family which now includes three grandchildren. Mary Ann says she loves the hymns and chorales of the church; one of her hymn favorites is *Holy God, we praise thy name*. As you approach your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mary Ann, we celebrate your many gifts and your commitment to church and family. In the years ahead, may you continue to ponder the meaning of the words from John chapter 1: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." ~ Ruth R. Harder

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY LAURA ANN SCHRAG!



Laura Ann was born to Mose I. and Lydia (Burkholder) Miller on September 20, 1931, at home on the family farm near Nappanee, IN. She grew up as the oldest of five children in an Old Order Amish family; she remembers her father saying, "All we ever had were bills and babies!" Laura Ann attended a small country school through 8th grade, and then lived during the week with various neighbors to help out with child-care and chores. She remembers caring for 33 different babies by the time she was 23 years old!

In 1954 Laura Ann and two other friends hired a driver to take them to the West coast for a vacation trip, on which she spent only \$500 in 51 days! On the way home, they stopped in Newton, KS, to visit friends working at Prairie View which was still in the early days of construction. Not long afterwards, Laura Ann received a letter asking her to come back and cook for members of the unit house at Prairie View. She accepted the invitation, and ended up staying almost nine years working first as a cook, then as aide in the hospital, and in activities and adult day care. She is grateful for all she learned in this setting.

Laura Ann was baptized at age 17 in the Amish church in Nappanee, then transferred to a church in Partridge, KS, and eventually joined Hesston College Mennonite Church. In 1962 she met Elmer Schrag from Pretty Prairie, while on a date with a friend of Elmer's. She and Elmer went on their first date on the same day that John Glenn went into orbit. They were married the next year (as Elmer later said, "We're still orbiting!") Laura Ann and Elmer joined BCMC in 1963. They lived on a farm near Goessel, where they raised a daughter and son. After the children were in school, Laura Ann worked as activities director at Bethesda Home, and then as co-manager at Et Cetera Shop in Newton. After retirement Laura Ann has continued active volunteering at Et Cetera Shop and Kauffman Museum. Following Elmer's death in 2000, she moved to Kidron Bethel Village where she appreciates friendships and activities in the community, and enjoys hosting family who come to visit.

We are grateful that Laura Ann's life journey has brought her to BCMC. We wish her God's blessings and strength for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and beyond! ~ Heidi Regier Kreider

## WITH OUR MEMBERS



Six people from BCMC participated in the **Bike Across Kansas** in June: Heidi Regier Kreider, Mark Kreider, Carl Thieszen, Ruth White, Jonathan Baloo and Orvin Voth

## ANNIVERSARIES



Clarence and Gladys Niles 60th wedding anniversary  
August 12, 1951  
Congratulations Gladys and Clarence!

Also celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary are Edwin and Mary Smith, Walton, KS., August 19, 1951.

## CONGRATULATIONS KATE!

This past spring, Kate Seymour, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine as valedictorian of her class with a 4.0 grade point average. She carried the school's banner in leading her classmates into the graduation ceremony. She credits two ladies from the Moundridge, Kansas Partners in Family Care as being the most influential in her decision to make medicine the focus of her education. During a holiday break in college, she shadowed Dr. Marla Ullom-Minnich and later spent two rotations at PIFC working closely with Ullom-Minnich and PA Tami Werner. During her years at college she received many honors and scholarships in addition to being chosen as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. With her parents, Miner and Valetta Seymour, she spent some time in Ghana, had trips to Belize and Tanzania. These experiences changed her perspective about life and medicine. July 1 she started her four-year residency at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She will spend two years in pediatrics and two years in adult internal medicine.



We are proud of your accomplishments, Kate, and wish you the best as you continue in your chosen profession. Congratulations and may God continue to bless you. Excerpts taken from the *Hesston Record* ~ Lois Goertzen

## LONG RANGE PLANNING UPDATE

The last several months at BCMC have been full of conversations about long-range planning at BCMC: At commission and committee meetings, around tables in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights in June, during Sunday school forums in July, and – hopefully - in many informal settings as well! We've shared what we cherish at BCMC, and our hopes for the building and activities in Deacon, Faith Formation, Hospitality, Witness and Worship ministries in the coming years. We've learned more about the history and technical aspects of our pipe organ and possibilities for its future, and have shared feelings, ideas and questions that will help shape that future. Now, after gathering this input, the Long Range Planning Team will shift its focus to reflect on what the congregation has been saying over these past months, and to listen to the voice of God's Spirit. The Long Range Planning Team then anticipates further interaction with the congregation to test plans, before any proposals are brought for decision. May God continue to guide us in prayerful listening and faithful discernment. Members of the Long Range Planning Team are George Leary (chair), Sondra Koontz, Adam Robb, Jenni Koontz, and Harold Thieszen; Heidi Regier Kreider is staff liaison.

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

## **Irma Luetta Woelk Peters—August 16, 1927—May 4, 2011**

Irma Woelk Peters, 83, died May 4 at the Sunshine Home in Buhler. She was born Aug. 16, 1927, in Goessel to Henry and Anna Schroeder Woelk. Irma graduated from Walton High School. She married Irvin Peters on July 1, 1945. They lived in Newton until 1961, when they moved to Buhler. In the 1970s, Irma owned and operated the Bisque and Bake Ceramic Shop in Buhler. In the early 1980s, she worked for about 10 years as a cook in the Buhler USD 313 school district. Irma was a Girl Scout leader in Newton and Buhler, a Cub Scout den mother, she and Irvin were Kansas state directors in the National Campers and Hikers Association for 10 years, members of the Buhler Ramblers Campers for 47 years, and they were avid square dancers with the Salt City Squares. More recently, Irma belonged to the Evening Star Quilt Guild and the Red Hat Society in Buhler and Newton. She is survived by husband, Irvin; sons, Ronn (wife, Pat) of McPherson, Jim (wife, Terry) of Overland Park and Greg (wife, Liz) of Prairie Village; and daughters, Pat Peters of Hutchinson and Barbara (husband, Joe Montgomery) of Columbia, MO; three sisters, Gladys Esau (husband, Marvin), Ruby Baresch, Norma Agatstein (husband, David); two brothers, Randy and Ron (wife, Marcie); 15 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. The funeral was May 7 at Buhler Mennonite Brethren Church. Burial was at the Buhler Cemetery.

## **Anthony R. Epp—August 10, 1941—June 6, 2011**

Anthony R. Epp of North Newton died June 6, at the age of 69. Son of Daniel J. Epp and Frieda Wiens Epp, Anthony was born on Aug. 10, 1941, in Toccoa, GA., where he spent the first five years of his life. After several years in Henderson, NE., he grew up in North Newton. He graduated from Bethel College, obtained a master's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. in French from the University of Colorado. Following his marriage to Dianne N. Waltner in 1964, they spent three years in the MCC Teachers Abroad Program, teaching in the Republique of Congo. Anthony's professional career spanned 35 years at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE. Baptized at the Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton during his teenage years, he returned his membership to that church when he and Dianne moved from Lincoln to Kidron Bethel Retirement Village in 2010. During his years in Lincoln, he was a member of the Antelope Park Church of the Brethren. He is survived by his wife, Dianne; son, Alain-René Epp Weaver and his wife, Sonia, and their children, Sam and Kate; daughter, Rachel Epp Buller and her husband, Tim, and their children, Daniel, Daisy and Lucy; two sisters, Becky Bartel and her husband, Larry, and Janet VanDyke and her husband, Richard; sister-in-law, Winona Senner and her husband, Les; and aunt, Martha Koehn, and cousins, nieces and nephews. A celebration of life service will be at BCMC on Aug. 15, 11 a.m.

## **Heinz Daniel Janzen—June 19, 1927—June 15, 2011**

Heinz D. Janzen, 83, died on June 15, 2011 in North Newton, KS. He was born to Peter M. and Mary (Dirks) Janzen on June 19, 1927 in New York. Heinz grew up in Ontario, CA and was baptized in the Upland Mennonite Church in Upland, CA. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1945-47 as an electronic technician. Following his discharge, he studied at Biola College in Los Angeles; Bethel College in North Newton, KS, where he received a B.A. in history in 1952; and Goshen College in Goshen, IN, where he received a B.S. in education in 1953. He received a master of divinity degree in 1956 from New York Theological Seminary in NY where he met his wife, Dorothea "Dotty" (Wirth). They were married September 10, 1955. Following his graduation, he served as pastor of the Calvary Mennonite Church in Washington, IL and the Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, OH. From 1969-1979 he was the general secretary for the General Conference Mennonite Church denominational headquarters. From 1979-1989 he was co-pastor with Dotty at the Trinity Mennonite Church in Hillsboro, KS. After his retirement from the ministry in 1990, he was coordinator of the General Conference Mennonite Men organization for six years. He served on the board of directors for Bethel College and the Mennonite Central Committee for many years. Survivors include his wife, Dorothea, of North Newton, KS; son Peter and wife Debra of Wichita, KS; daughter Margie Hildebrand and husband Charlie of Morden, Manitoba, Canada; daughter Mary Janzen of State College, PA; brother Herbert Janzen of Ritzville, WA; sister Metta Lieb of Newton, KS; and grandchildren Reuben Friesen, Mark Friesen, Gus Hernandez, and Victoria Janzen.

## **Blanche Brobeil Spaulding—November 3, 1913—June 25, 2011**

Blanche was born November 3, 1913, the only child of Charles and Maude (Long) Brobeil. She grew up on a farm in Sac City, IA. She graduated from Lytton High School and then earned her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Blanche spent one year as Boone County (Iowa) Home Demonstration agent. Afterwards, she was a graduate student in the U.S.D.A. graduate School on a Payne 4-H Scholarship. She returned to Ames to become Assistant State 4-H Club leader in the Extension Service. December 31, 1940, she married J. Lloyd Spaulding. During the war years they worked in Church of the Brethren Civilian Public Service Camps. In 1947 the Spauldings moved to North Newton, KS where Lloyd joined the faculty of Bethel College. The Spauldings remained at Bethel College except for a four year period in Wichita. Sons Jay and Timothy and daughter Susan completed the family. Blanche had been baptized in the Presbyterian Church in Lytton, IA. She and Lloyd joined Bethel College Mennonite Church November 18, 1956. In May of 1998 Blanche was presented with a plaque recognizing her 46 years as a Sunday school teacher of children and youth at BCMC. Blanche was the librarian of the Western District Loan Library and started a preschool story hour in 1976. For 29 years this was a part of Blanche's life. She concluded her last story hour in December 2005. She also taught Children's Literature and Teaching Children in the Church at Bethel College. In November 1994 Blanche moved to Kidron Bethel. Blanche is survived by sons Jay Spaulding and his wife, Stephanie Beswick of Muncie, IN; Timothy Spaulding and his wife, Reneé and their sons Michael and Ryan of Oswego, IL; daughter Susan Graves and her husband Jon, and their daughter Kimberly Wenger and her husband Nicholas of Wichita, KS; and their son William Graves and his wife Sarah of Las Cruces, NM; and great grandchildren, Jakob, Jackson, and Caroline Wenger of Wichita, KS.

## COLOMBIA, 47 YEARS LATER

Helen Bergen received a phone call from Inés Ortíz in February inviting her to meet her in Colombia. Therefore, after almost 49 years since the Eldon Bergen family first went to Colombia, Helen and her son Dale returned for a visit April 26 to May 10. They were hosted by Inés Ortíz, who lives in Florida, and her brother Carlos Ortíz, who lives in Bogotá, Colombia. Through the years, the Bergens remained close to the eight Ortíz children, staying in touch by letters and phone calls. Carlos and Helena live in Bogotá, and five other Ortíz siblings in Florida.

In the fall of 1962, the Bergen family arrived at the Mennonite Boarding School at Cachipay, Colombia to serve missionaries and students. There was also a school at La Mesa and three Mennonite churches in a 30 to 40 mile radius. The Cachipay school was founded in the early 1950's by Gerald and Mary Hope Stucky, from Berne, Indiana.

Upon their arrival, Helen and Dale took a taxi to visit Mary Hope, now 94. Helen says they had a wonderful two hour visit, along with coffee, tinto and cookies, served by Mary Hope's daughter-in-law Carol, a medical doctor.

Eldon served the Cachipay school doing vehicle and building maintenance, transporting passengers for the mission, and playing and visiting with the children. Meanwhile, Helen's main job was tutoring their two children, Jan and Dale, ages seven and nine, through two years of American studies. Helen cooked the meals for her family which took about two hours prep for each meal. She also assisted younger girls who lived adjacent to the Bergen apartment and served as the barber for the live-in students. Initially, The Bergen family knew no Spanish, but Jan and Dale quickly learned enough to enroll in school. Eldon learned quickly too, and within a few months was teaching drawing. There were 70 boarding students and 70 local walk-in students at the Mennonite school at that time. It is also important to know that when Eldon, Helen and children returned to the United States in 1964, they brought back with them Elsa Ortíz, age 14, who lived with the Bergens for 18 months to attend school. She was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She died of cancer five years ago in Florida. The Ortíz family named their youngest son, Bernardo, after Eldon's father, Bennie Bergen. Eldon returned to Colombia for a short while in the summer of 1969, just before the Ortíz mother, Señora Inés, died. Señora Inés and Salathiél asked Eldon if his family could help with education for another child. Inés Ortíz, age 14, came five months later, staying with the Bergens for two years.

The two week trip to Colombia began in Bogotá, where Helen and Dale spent the first night at Carlos' and Helena's small three story condo. Helena is a sister to Carlos and Inés. After their visit with Mary Hope Stucky, Carlos, Inés and the Bergens left for Agua de Diós, a leper village and the Ortíz family home. When arriving in Agua de Diós, former students and friends greeted them with much sharing, nonstop talking, and many hugs. On the second night, Dale opened the shutters of the barred window, and in the morning his shaving kit that was at the top of his suitcase under the window was missing! Marks on the sill showed in the dust. They were thankful it wasn't his money belt, which was nearby. Helen says they walked a lot, and that pedestrians, cars and cycles were all fighting for space. She did not see many donkeys or mules like they did years ago. They had wonderful visits with many former students, some of whom became teachers. Dale's pictures on the laptop computer, and the photo album Helen brought were a big hit with the former students.

Their visit in Agua de Diós also included seeing two of the Ortíz siblings' farms. Cecilia Ortíz raises fish on her farm and Roberto raises Brahma cattle on his. The setting is beautiful with the mountains in the background and beautiful birds, including parakeets. Helen remembered this area as hot, dry and dusty, but it was so different this time: There was lush green growth and hundreds of flowering trees and bushes. From Agua de Diós, they traveled to La Mesa and saw the Mennonite Collegio, where Vernelle Yoder spent many years as a missionary. The school now has 600 students, with only a handful of Mennonites attending. Here they found Polo Daza waiting for them. He had entered the Cachipay school at age 30 and was put into third grade. He became a very close friend of Eldon's and they spent hours visiting together. Eldon gave him the encouragement he needed, and Polo taught Eldon Spanish. Polo went on to become a pastor.

Arriving in Cachipay by bus, Helen and Dale were greeted by friends, including diminutive Saúl Prieto, who came to just above the elbow on Eldon. He was holding a picture of Eldon and Helen. And then he introduced his son, Eldon Prieto, who had been named in honor of Eldon Bergen. Helen, Dale and Inés spent the day at the former Cachipay school, touring the beloved school grounds, which is now a retreat center. The buildings are in disrepair because of lack of funds.

One final story that was so important to Helen, was meeting retired architect Eddie Murcia in a small town near Bogotá. He told Helen that he had been in Eldon's drawing class and that Eldon had encouraged him to continue drawing and to set goals. Eddie was so appreciative of Eldon's interest in him, it inspired him to become an architect. Helen reflected about this trip, musing that seeds sown during the 40 years or so that the Mennonite schools flourished in Colombia have spread and multiplied. She was still able to see the fruits of the missionaries who gave of themselves for many years. The emphasis now is on growing churches and congregations, rather than running schools. It was rewarding for Helen to meet so many of the former students



Helen Bergen and Eldon Prieto and his Mother.

## Colombia, 47 years later continued

who still remembered them 47 years later. Many of the students grew up in poverty and went on to have rewarding careers. Several of the students were able to come to the USA and Canada through the MCC Trainee Program. Helen says the experience in Colombia changed their lives. As a result of their experience, Eldon switched from teaching wood shop and drafting to teaching Spanish when they returned to the USA.

~ Karen Penner

## A TRIBUTE TO TONY EPP

Once in a while someone enters the life of a community and makes a difference. When Tony and Dianne Epp moved to North Newton to the Kidron/Bethel community from Lincoln, Nebraska, it was obvious that they were the right fit for this area. Since Tony's death many people have commented on the way he impacted life around him. His enthusiasm and interest in so many things left a lasting imprint on the people in the community and church. He organized a group of folks at Kidron/Bethel and got them involved in speaking German. Heinz Janzen commented on how much he enjoyed these gatherings. Immediately he with Dianne joined the choir at the church, and soon they both became active church members. Tony's willingness to teach and interact with the high school age young people proved to be a time well spent for all of them. He was involved in some translating from writings in the German language. Volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages was another of his efforts. The people he interacted with there, both customers and co-workers were certainly enriched by his presence.

The Kaleidoscope team soon found out that through his interest in writing for the newsletter he was not only a gifted writer but had the skill in leading the folks he was writing about in successful interviews. Of course, these interviews were preceded with a delightful meal around the table with Tony and Dianne as hosts and carefully crafted articles soon appeared in the newsletter. We all feel his time with us was cut way too short, and we would have loved to have him around not only for continuing to offer his many gifts, but learning to know him better. When I mentioned to his son, Alain, that we were just learning to know him, he responded "so were we". From the newsletter staff, we want to publicly offer our thanks to him for his delightful contributions and for all he did for the entire community. He left an imprint for sure.

~ Lois Goertzen

## PASTOR'S CORNER—RUTH R. HARDER—CROSSING POINTS

I'll admit—I don't like to travel across bridges. The fear and wooziness I experience when crossing bridges is sometimes embarrassing to admit, especially when driving a van load of youth to the Mennonite Church USA assembly in Pittsburgh, PA, a city with over 400 bridges. I assured the youth that despite my irrational fear of heights and of bridges, I could still be a safe driver and that I had coping mechanisms such as holding my breath for an inordinate amount of time. It's not that I don't like bridges. Bridges, especially the ones in Pittsburgh, are often beautiful—symbols of stunning engineering and skilled and courageous labor. It's just that I'd rather admire bridges from a distance!



I thought something similar during the recent Bridges to the Cross assembly in Pittsburgh—if only I could simply admire Christian bridge building work from a distance—if only I didn't have to risk participating in it myself! If only I could simply admire, as opposed to embody, Paul's bridge building master plan in Galatians 3:27: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise."

Paul speaks of Christians joining together to create a stunningly engineered bridge or community, whereby everyone has a place, whereby all Christians everywhere are treated as full, beautiful heirs. It's an awe-inspiring message. And yet, it hardly feels as though we, in the Christian/Mennonite body, are "one in Christ Jesus." There are many who have not been treated as full heirs in the Christian body or to use bridge language, many have felt left off the bridge or worse, thrown off the bridge. Given the hurt and anger that some feel, it's hard to know when and where to continue the work of Christian bridge building—it's hard to know how to build this stunningly engineered community of faith that Paul talks about.

Recently someone reminded me that my deceased grandfather, Wesley Prieb, was a Christian bridge builder. He often "crossed over" and sought to view the world from perspectives other than his own. He, as someone once put it, was skilled at "seeking and saying the other side." In so doing, he always sought Christ's enlivening healing and hope. His Christian vocation, as he understood it, was to be a skilled and courageous engineer of Christian community. I have no illusions that my Grandpa was always skilled at this work; I'm sure he had days where he would have much preferred to admire Christian bridge building from a distance rather than embody it in his daily choices and actions. Still, I think that his faith in Christ Jesus, a faith that was clearly alive within him, kept compelling him to build, build, and build.

I can still hear youth group members cheering me on as we crossed the many rivers on our way to Pittsburgh—"You can do it, Ruth. You're almost there." I say in return to those who may be tired of or scared of bridge building work, "Let us keep building. Let us call to mind the enlivening and empowering life of Christ, our ultimate bridge builder, and let us be about creating a stunningly engineered community of faith, where all are one in Christ Jesus."

Bethel College Mennonite Church

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Seven Senior high youth (Amy Kondziola, Abe Turner, Mark Kreider, Nat Dick, Christopher Wagoner, Josef Voth and Erin Bergen), together with three sponsors (Adam Robb, Jill Robb and Ruth R. Harder) participated in the Mennonite Church USA assembly in Pittsburgh, PA, July 4-9. This “thank you photo” is for everyone who helped make this trip possible. Your prayers, food and monetary donations were much appreciated. One youth, when asked if they thought it was a worthwhile experience, said, “I drew closer to God.” We give thanks for experiences which do just that—draw us nearer to God and one another. Oh, and by the way, this photo was taken 16 hours into our 18 hour drive home—can you tell?

## AUGUST — SEPTEMBER 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Worship schedule** (*Check weekly bulletins and church web site, [bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net](http://bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net), for updates*)

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

### August 2011

- 7** Sermon, “Arts in Prison” by John McCabe-Juhnke; music by Vada Snider and Karen Loucks  
**3:30 p.m.** Organ recital with Christopher Shaw—Sanctuary
- 14** Sermon by Joe and Anna Sawatzky, Mennonite Mission Network Mission Partners; music by the Mosaic and Agape  
Sunday school class; Sunday school elective with the Sawatzkys—Sanctuary
- 21** Sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Jesse Graber and Ben Regier; Commissioning of Sunday school teachers;  
Reception of new members; Fall Sunday school begins  
**12:00 noon** Local Foods Potluck—Fellowship Hall
- 28** Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by LuGene Mueller Isleman  
**7:00 p.m.** Dessert reception for Bethel College students on the church lawn

### September 2011

- 4** Dialogue with Heidi Regier Kreider and Ruth R. Harder; music to be announced
- 11** Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by the Chancel Choir
- 18** Guest speaker to be announced; music by the Chancel Bells  
**12:00 noon** Potluck in Fellowship Hall followed by congregational meeting
- 25** Sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by the Junior Choir  
**2:00 p.m.** CROP Walk