

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

December

6 Second Sunday in Advent — Ponder anew...God comes to prepare the path of peace
9:00 a.m. prelude by Newton Community Children's Choir; 9:30 a.m. worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder and music by Junior Choir
7:00 p.m. Deutsche Weihnachten (German Christmas) — Sanctuary
Bring food for Salvation Army

13 Third Sunday in Advent — Ponder anew...God comes to bring good news
9:00 a.m. prelude by Hesston High School Singers; 9:30 a.m. worship features choral work, *Gloria*, by Antonio Vivaldi, performed by the Chancel and Youth Choir

20 Fourth Sunday in Advent — Ponder anew...God comes to deliver salvation
9:00 a.m. prelude by BCMC Youth and Mentor pairs
9:30 a.m. worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider and music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Bells

27 1st Sunday of Christmas—Ponder anew...God comes to dwell with us
9:30 a.m. prelude by organist Christopher Shaw; 10:00 a.m. worship service followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Bring goodies to share (no Sunday school)



January 2010

3 Epiphany—Ponder anew...God reveals the mystery
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider and music by a BCMC brass ensemble
Bring food for Salvation Army
7:00 p.m. Communion service and candle-lighting in memory of BCMC members and loved ones who died in 2009

10 Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder and music by Menno Ringers

17 Worship and Sunday school elective series on sexuality starts today; music by Chancel Choir

24 Worship and Sunday school elective series on sexuality ; music by Chancel Bells
12:45 p.m. Soup luncheon in Fellowship Hall followed by congregational meeting in Sanctuary

31 Worship and Sunday school elective series on sexuality; music by Chancel Choir and Junior Choir



Bethel College Mennonite Church

PO Box 364

North Newton, KS 67117

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Return service requested

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

December 2009–January 2010/3:6



SAND CREEK COMMUNITY GARDENS

On Monday, November 9, students and staff from Bethel College, members of our church, and citizens of North Newton broke ground for the Sand Creek Community Gardens. To the east of the church, east of Goerz Ave., between Warkentin Court parking lot and 24th Street there is a small plot of plowed ground, on land belonging to the college which we hope will expand as interest grows.

The mission of the gardens is to provide peaceful and inviting gardening spaces for the students and neighbors of Bethel College.

The goals of the gardens are:

- ✦ nurture healthy bodies with locally grown, nutritious food
- ✦ contribute toward reducing family food budgets
- ✦ develop selected ways to cooperate with Bethel College food service
- ✦ encourage exercise and therapeutic labor plan community projects (dig, plant, mulch, mow, weed, clean, harvest, celebrate)
- ✦ foster community through inter-generational

interaction

- ✦ partner experienced gardeners and college students
 - ✦ introduce children to gardening by creating an adult supervised children's garden
 - ✦ develop community herb garden
 - ✦ educate persons in good gardening practices that reflect care for God's creation
 - ✦ conserve through mulching, drip irrigation, rain water harvesting [Use roof of shed to harvest rain water]
 - ✦ compost and plant fall cover crops to improve soil fertility
 - ✦ use organic methods of pest and weed control
 - ✦ work with local nursery in identifying and purchasing seeds and plants
 - ✦ Meet with master gardeners in the community
- **Dreams:** A garden with free produce for community
 - Build gazebo, benches, picnic table for community gathering
 - Pumpkin patch by college students for children in community

- Install windmill with water tank as one source of water.

The planning so far has included students of the Environmental Action Club and staff at Bethel, staff from the church and members of the Creation Care Task Force, and other citizens from North Newton. We are also exploring how the City of North Newton might be a sponsor of the gardens.

You will be hearing much more as planning progresses. If you have rakes, hoes, shovels, a wheelbarrow, garden hoses, clippers that are just gathering dust in your garage or shed, please let us know. And above all, come and join us if you need a garden plot because you do not have space, you have too much shade and too many tree roots in your yard, or you just want to enjoy the fellowship with fellow gardeners. In the words of medieval mystic Julian of Norwich:

*Be a gardener
Dig a ditch,
toil and sweat,
and turn the earth upside down
and seek the deepness
and water the plants in time.
Continue this labor
and make sweet floods to run
and noble and abundant fruits
to spring.
Take this food and drink
and carry it to God
as your true worship.*

Stay tuned for more information as plans progress.
~ Duane Friesen



Photos by Melanie Zuercher

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BCMC Kaleidoscope

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BLESS THIS HOUSE — THE AGAPE CENTER: RICHERT HOUSE

Agape House Blessing

Bless this house and the people within.
May it be a house of peace for all who enter.
May it be a house of love for all who enter.
May it be a house of joy for all who enter.
May all who enter be welcomed as Christ.
May this be a safe place full of understanding and acceptance,
where people can be as they are,
without the need of any mask or pretense or image.
May this be a place of discovery,
where possibilities emerge and dreams come alive.
May this be a place of courage, where healing and growth are love,
where dignity and forgiveness prevail;
a place where patience of spirit is prized
and the sight of the destination is never lost.
May this be a place of welcome for the broken and diminished.
May we have the eyes to see that no visitor arrives
without a gift
and no guest leaves without a blessing.
Bless this house and the people within.
May it be a house of peace for all who enter.
May it be a house of love for all who enter.
May it be a house of joy for all who enter.
May all who enter be welcomed as Christ.



The Agape Center was blessed in a service on November 15, 2009.



Photos by Melanie Zuercher

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF BCMC DOING?

The children and youth of BCMC have been very active this fall in a variety of ways. Wednesday evenings for them are not only a time of choir and bell rehearsals but also a time of doing service, learning new skills and ideas and certainly a time for socializing. The following is a glimpse of the groups that meet here on Wednesday evenings and the activities in which they participated for the last eight weeks.

VENTURE CLUB-GRADES 3-5, Led by Jeanette Leary

- Opening night-made a banner, played get to know you games. Learned the pledge and song.
- Field trip to Bethel College Administration Building led by **Keith Sprunger**.
- Followed paper folding directions to make Rainbow flyers.
- **Lois Deckert** talked to us about manners, life skills.
- We made funny glasses masks. **Naomi Graber** led this session with help from **Mary Kondziola**.
- Line dancing with **Dorothy Harder** and the Jr. High Club.
- Doing things for others. Made care packages for BCMC college students at Bethel College.
- Fun night! Played games and ate popcorn

JR. HIGH CLUB-GRADES 6-8, Led by LuAnn Zook, Doug Siemens, helper

- Updated hymnal inserts in ALL the hymnals in the sanctuary
- Toured Community Playschool rooms and cut paper materials for fall activities. **Bonnie Krehbiel** guided the activities.
- Learned about the fall prairie with a botany bouquet. **Brad Guhr** guided the activities.
- Baked carrot cake muffins for college student prayer group and toured Agape Center.
- Toured Bethel College as a student.
- Removed caps from pew pens.
- Line dancing with **Dorothy Harder** and the Venture Club.

~ Submitted by Jeanette Leary, BCMC Education Coordinator



Follow the light to BCMC on December 24 and be prepared to share in a unique experience. “May God’s light shine throughout the world” will be the phrase of the evening as the children and youth of BCMC present the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve program. This colorful and imaginative presentation will give you a new perspective of the birth of Jesus as the children sing songs from various places around the world. You will glimpse how other countries and cultures, perhaps, view the manger scene and see some of the symbols of Christmas tradition from around the world. Open your hearts to new meaning and new light as the story of Jesus’ birth is told and we remember that we are part of something much bigger than just our own little corner of the Earth. All are welcome! ~ Jeanette Leary, Education Coordinator

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FORMING AT BCMC

This quarter a new adult Sunday School discussion group is getting organized in room B-7 . (That is located just below the church offices.) In our first meeting we decided that for the next quarter, we will discuss our responses to that morning's worship service - sermon, special music, the hymns, visual elements, and the scriptures. Attendees are encouraged to read the Advent scriptures listed for the week in the "Ponder Anew.." brochure. Resource materials are available in the classroom, but feel free to bring something to share. Visitors to our worship services are also encouraged to join us. For more information, call Jeanette Stucky 283-3248 or Carol Peters 283-4232.

BCMC MEMBERS RECEIVE WRITING AWARDS

BCMC members, Emerson Wiens and James D. Yoder both received first place awards on their writing submissions to the Kansas Authors’ Club 105th Annual State Convention and Writing Contest held in Topeka October 17-19. Emerson Weins's writing, a memoir entitled, "The Dog and the Bull," recalled an event occurring when he was a child.

James Yoder's story was an entry in the KAC Theme Contest, the theme being "Writing is a Capital Idea." Jim wrote a short story about a schoolboy caught in a difficult writing and spelling contest entitled "Foot in the Turtle's Mouth." Both writings were limited to 2,000 words.

PASTOR’S CORNER—HEIDI REGIER KREIDER

In November I attended *The Practice of Relationship* - the third session in the Sacred Practice Leadership Series, a two-year series of six sessions sponsored by the Alban Institute (previous sessions were *The Practice of Visioning* and *The Practice of Discernment*). Our two presenters were pastors/writers Doug Bixby, author of *Honest to God Church*, and Karen McClintock, co-author of *Healthy Disclosure: Solving Communication Quandaries in Congregations*. They explored issues relating to healthy communication, appropriate boundaries, honesty in our brokenness, grace and accountability within the community of faith. Unfortunately, as Karen noted, congregations often engage in unhealthy communication styles:

Indirect communication: Conflict is dealt with in the form of complaining to a third person rather than talking directly with someone. This results in triangulation, in the effort to avoid direct confrontation or taking responsibility.

Anonymous communication: Passing information without identifying the source (ie. “other people say...” or anonymous e-mails and letters). Closely related is using the collective “We,” (ie. “We all feel that...”) rather than speaking in first person (“I feel that...”)

Pass-through communication occurs when information is given to someone to pass on to another person with the intention of saving time or avoiding confrontation, but often results in ineffective and confused communication.

Gossip, which involves people talking about other people; and **rumors**, which are stories that are unverified, embellished, or false. Gossip and rumors create intimacy and entertain the speakers; relieve tension and anxiety when accurate information is lacking, and give people a sense of power by discrediting someone else, and being “in the know.” Closely related is **passing on information without permission** and violating confidentiality.

Secrets: Preventing disclosure of information which, if not revealed, does harm to someone. Examples could include sexual abuse, addictions, adultery, financial problems, or mental illness. Secrets create “in groups” (those who know) and “out” groups (those who don’t know). Often congregations, families and individuals hide secrets out of shame, and under the guise of protecting someone or avoiding conflict, thus allowing the destructive and divisive power of the secrets to continue.

As we confess our complicity in these unhealthy forms of communication, it is also liberating to know that God has given us a better way: to address and resolve conflicts directly, to speak the truth in love, to seek the welfare of all, to be clear and honest. At Christmas we celebrate that “The Word became Flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,...full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) What a tremendous model of transparent communication and redemptive relationship. May we, the body of Christ, also dwell with one another in grace and truth.

OBITUARIES



Loris Habegger — January 9, 1918-September 30, 2009

Loris was born in rural Berne, IN Jan. 9, 1918, the eldest of two children. He had a younger sister, Helen. Loris attended Adams County District No. 7 Grade School, and graduated from Monroe High School in 1935. He remained on the family farm until he was drafted in 1941. During his growing-up years, Loris was an active member of the First Mennonite Church in Berne. As a young man, he taught Sunday school, sang in the men's chorus and a men's quartet, and participated in Christian Endeavor and the Young People's Union.

Registered as a conscientious objector, Loris entered Civilian Public Service in 1941. He was first assigned to Indiana Fish and Game and then to the Marlboro State Hospital, Marlboro, NJ. In Marlboro, he served as the head of the CPS unit that cared for mental patients. While at Marlboro, he met Evelyn Regier on a visit to the MCC offices in Akron, PA. They were married Aug. 9, 1945. Following Civilian Public Service, Loris and Evelyn moved to North Newton, KS, where he completed his undergraduate degree at Bethel College. Loris served as pastor of the First Mennonite Church in Halstead, KS from 1947 – 1954, as pastor of the Wayland Mennonite Church, Wayland IA 1954 – 1960, as Associate in Development at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN from 1960 – 1968, as pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, OH from 1968 – 1972, as General Conference General Editor, Newton, KS from 1972 – 1977, as associate pastor at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS from 1977 – 1982, and as pastor of Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS from 1982 – 1987. He also served as interim pastor at Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS, and Goessel Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS. Throughout his working years, Loris stayed busy. In addition to serving as an officer or board or committee member for numerous church and civic organizations, he taught school at Halstead and Wayland, and he pursued photography.

During his retirement years, Loris continued his involvement in the Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton and Newton communities. He was active in the Area Council on Aging, Northview Opportunity Center, the Victim Offender program, the Lions Club, and with Evelyn, delivered Meals on Wheels. In later years, Loris and Evelyn continued to enjoy the many friendships, opportunities and activities available to them in the North Newton community.

Loris and Evelyn moved to Moundridge Memorial Home in early 2004 due to failing health. Loris died on September 30, 2009 after suffering a fall in his room at Memorial Home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arman and Hilegunda Sprunger Habegger and his wife, Evelyn Regier Habegger. He is survived and will be greatly missed by his sister, Helen Habegger of Berne, IN and his children, Arman and Sue Habegger, Bob and Lorna Harder, and Richard and Carol Habegger; his grandchildren, Luke (Martha) and Leigh Habegger, Tre (Mandy) Jones, Randy and Kevin Hart; and his great-granddaughters, Jandria Wetherald, and Jaed and Tristan Jones.



Galen Roy Koehn Sr.—May 2, 1915-October 25, 2009

Galen Roy Koehn Sr., 94, a retired Newton businessman, passed away Sunday (Oct. 25, 2009) at Kidron Bethel Care Center in North Newton, Kansas.

He was born on May 2, 1915 in Pawnee Rock to Lawrence and Martha (Schultz) Koehn. He graduated from Bethel College in 1938 with degrees in Industrial Arts and Chemistry. He served in the US Navy during WWII.

He married Martha Wiens on May 30, 1941 at Bethel College Chapel. They recently celebrated 68 years of marriage.

Before retiring, he owned and managed the Home Appliance and Furniture Co. in Newton for 30 years. He enjoyed woodworking and was an avid supporter of Bethel College sports. He has been a member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church since 1948.

He is survived by his wife Martha Koehn; son Roy and Paulette Koehn and daughter Megan of Gaithersburg, MD, daughter-in-law Diana Macauley Koehn and sons Daniel (Frances) and Timothy of Silver Springs, MD, daughter Wendy and David Jones and daughters Amanda (Jason Williams) and Kimberly of Des Moines, IA, and son Larry and Mary Koehn and children Melissa, Matthew, Michael, Kevin, and Kelly of North Palm Beach, FL, and sister Leona Clithero of Newton, KS.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Martha Koehn, son Kenneth Koehn and brother Earl Koehn.

The family wishes to thank everyone for your prayers, support, words and deeds of kindness during Galen's final journey here on earth.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY BETTY SCHMIDT!



Betty was born at Bethel Deaconess Hospital on New Year's Eve-December 31, 1929 - the second child of Rudy and Nettie Enns. She has an older brother and two younger sisters. Growing up in Newton, Betty attended four different schools in the community: Roosevelt, McKinley, Santa Fe and Newton High School. Betty was baptized in 1943 by Rev. Smucker at BCMC, which at that time worshiped in the Administration Building chapel. She remembers biking with friends to choir and singing with the adult choir in the summers. She also attended Christian Endeavor and Minnie Beths. After high school graduation Betty attended Bethel College where she received a degree in Home Economics and met Robert Schmidt. They were married in August of 1953 and moved to Norman, Oklahoma where Bob did his graduate studies at O.U. and got his Doctorate. During that time Betty worked as Dietitian at the University Infirmary until 1956 when their first child Becki was born. Brian was also born in Oklahoma and the family moved to Indianola, Iowa in 1958 where Bob taught at Simpson College. Ken joined the family in 1960 and in 1961 another move was made to Newton, Kansas when Bob joined the faculty in the chemistry department at Bethel College. Karen was born in 1964. Betty was a stay at home Mom until the new Newton High School was built in 1973 where she was employed by the School Food Service and worked there until she retired in 1990. Moves during the summers for National Science Foundation Grants and two sabbaticals were one of the ways of traveling with the family to Washington D.C.; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Auburn, Alabama; Gloucester, Virginia.; and Iowa City, Iowa. to name a few. Retirement has brought opportunities for reading, handiwork, birdwatching, bell collecting, volunteering at Book Reviews and being in the kitchen, as well as more travel to see children and eight grandchildren ranging in age from 9 to 23. At BCMC, Betty has served on the social committee and sung in the church choir. She has always enjoyed music. Some of her favorite scriptures are those ancient hymns and poems, the Psalms. A little known fact about Betty is that she took judo classes one summer while living in Oklahoma. "It's proven helpful," she claims! As she celebrates her 80th birthday, we hope that she will experience many more years of health and vitality.

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY RICHARD SIEMENS!



The first baby born in Harvey County on New Years Day to Jacob J. and Anna E. Siemens in 1930 was Richard Allan Siemens. Together with his older sister Maurine Hean and younger brother, Bob, Richard grew up in North Newton. He attended Bethel College Mennonite Church becoming a member upon baptism in 1943. Between his junior and senior year of high school, Richard was recruited by Dr. Melvin Gingerich, Bethel College history professor, to be part of a crew to care for livestock sponsored by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation and the Church of the Brethren. They delivered a shipload of horses to Gdynia, Poland.

Following Newton High School graduation in 1947, he attended Bethel College graduating in 1951 with a degree in Biology. Richard received a Master's Degree in Public Health with a major in Laboratory Epidemiology in 1953 from the University of Michigan. During the Korean War he was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX where he was an instructor in the Laboratory Branch of the Medical Field Service School.

Richard met Frances Schultz at Bethel College and they were married June 8, 1954 at the Bergthal Mennonite Church, Pawnee Rock, KS by Rev. D. C. Wedel. Upon discharge from the Army, Richard attended the Kansas University Medical School graduating in 1959. Following internship in Seattle Public Health Hospital and General Practice residency at Ventura General Hospital, Ventura, CA., they moved to Lyons, KS where he was a family physician until moving to Kidron Bethel Retirement Village.

Volunteer activities have included serving as an Elder and Deacon in the Presbyterian Church, Rotary service club projects for 46 years, working in the Indian Health Service, serving on the Bethel College Board of Directors, the Kauffman Museum board and the Gifts Discernment committee at BCMC.

His hobbies are: fishing, hunting, biking and golf.

Richard and Frances have two children: Dr. Charlotte Siemens of Fargo, N.D. and Douglas Siemens currently teaching at Bethel College. They have five grandchildren.

When asked what his favorite Scripture text is, Richard is quick to say: Matthew, chapter 5. Thanks to several inspiring college classes taught by Erland Waltner and Henry Fast, the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes continue to shape Richard's faith and convictions. We wish Richard much happiness as he turns 80. Richard, may you enjoy these years watching your grandchildren grow up, biking and serving this community. ~ Ruth R. Harder

QUILTS—A GIFT FOR OUR CHILDREN



Ethel Abrahams may be remembered by BCMC children as “The Quilt Lady.” She touched many hearts on Sunday, November 15, during the Children’s Story. “A quilt is like a sandwich,” she told the children, “there is a bottom piece of fabric and a top made with scraps, sewn into a pattern, but in the middle is something special, warm, soft, caring – the batting.”

She went on to tell the children that books are like a sandwich too – a back cover, and front cover, but in the middle is something special – a story warm and caring. Ethel gave five books to the church library for the children to check out and read: *The Quilt Story, The Patchwork Lady, Oma’s Quilt, The Much Loved Quilt, The Rag Coat*. But the most important book Ethel shared with the children was the “Bible.” She told the children that the Bible has a back cover, a front cover, but the inside is full of wonderful verses and stories. Ethel’s son, Dwayne, shared and taught a verse from the Bible with the children. Ethel said her favorite verse is “He cares for you.” I Peter 5:7b. As Ethel expressed her thanks to God, and the church for their prayers, food, visits and cards this past year when she was healing, she brought out small quilts (16 X 18) she had made for each child present. She gave 20 quilts to the children present, and two belatedly. It was a joy (and therapy) for Ethel to give this gift of time to our future church. Thank you, Ethel! ~ Karen Penner



WITH OUR MEMBERS

New Members—November 22, 2009

Nancy Hilty—by transfer
Ben Lichti —by transfer
Jill Robb—by transfer
Jeanette Stucky—by transfer
Stephen Stucky—by transfer
Vel Teichroew—by transfer
Lenore Waltner—by transfer

Renee Wiens-Evangelista has re-established full membership with BCMC

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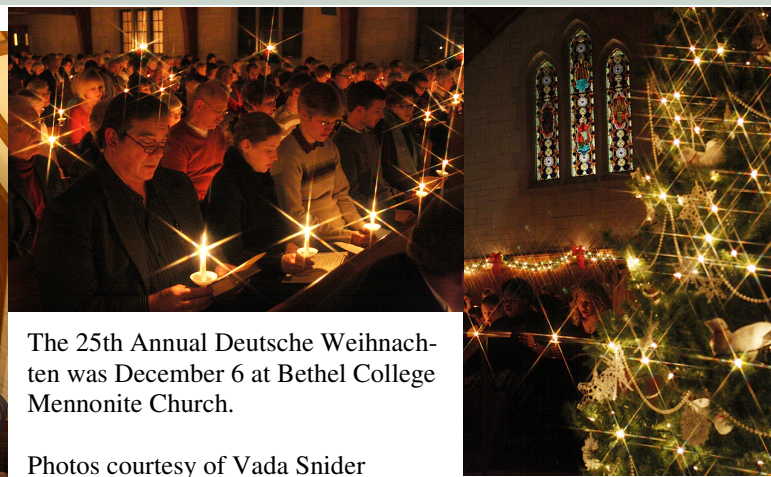
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Wes and Beth
Goerzen
Regehr

December 22,
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DEUTSCHE WEIHNACHTEN (GERMAN CHRISTMAS) AT BCMC



The 25th Annual Deutsche Weihnachten was December 6 at Bethel College Mennonite Church.

Photos courtesy of Vada Snider

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SPEND WEEKEND OF SERVICE

The Senior High youth group spent the weekend of November 20-21 doing community service. The weekend commenced with the annual leaf raking work day at Rupert Hohmann’s house on Friday afternoon. The group spent three hours filling two trailers with leaves and yard waste. Thanks to Ruby Stucky for allowing us to use her land to deposit the leaves.

After a supper at Agape Center (the new campus ministries house at Bethel College), the youth then prepared to start service at Mennoscah. Jill and Adam Robb, Cliff Dick, Ruth R. Harder, Naomi Graber and youth Ben Kreider, Mark Kreider, Joe Kondziola, Megan Leary, Nat Dick and Lynn Tran made the trip to Murdock and were greeted by camp director Olivia Bartel. Friday night included a bonfire and a bowl of popcorn in the chilly air.

Luckily, the staff house at Mennoscah does have heaters so the night wasn’t unbearable. After an early breakfast of bacon, eggs, and toast, the group went to work on a new sprinkler system at the new director’s house.

After a quick plumbing lesson, MVS worker Michael Unruh and maintenance director Torrey Ball put the group to work. Tasks included digging, laying PVC pipe, gluing PVC pipe together after being told exactly where it needed to go, assembling sprinklers, and filling the dirt back in. We completed half of the system in our seven hours of work on Saturday.

Due to prior commitments we were unable to stay until Sunday and returned to North Newton late Saturday afternoon. The youth group appreciates these opportunities to give time and energy to the community and God’s kingdom.
~ Megan Leary

