

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

December 2012 — January 2013 6:6



Janet Stucky to mission assignment in Ethiopia

BCMC member Janet Stucky has been approved for service with Mennonite Mission Network to work with the Relief and Development Agency of the Mese-rete Kristos Church in Ethiopia. A local Ministry Support Team (MST) has been formed to encourage Janet, coordinate communications and prayer support, and help raise financial support. MST participants are BCMC members and friends Dorothy Nickel Friesen, chair; Marlene Faul, Jeanette Stucky, Al and Sue Penner, and Alan and Annette Lindal. (see photo) The MST will relate to the Witness Commission, which is including some funds for Janet's support in the proposed budget for 2013. If you would like to partner with Janet to receive her prayer letter or contribute additional financial support directly to Mennonite Mission Network, please contact Dorothy Nickel Friesen (at 316-281-9364 or dorothyf@cox.net) for more information. Janet anticipates beginning a two-year term early in 2013, pending funding.

Following are Janet's words given in the Kingdom Report in worship on November 4: "It was during my under-graduate years and teaching career at Eastern Mennonite University that I developed and experienced transformative and life-shaping values. I taught with faculty who were significantly involved and connected to the global Mennonite world. I experienced the value and strength of the faith-based institution and made faith and social connections that developed into lifelong relationships there. It was also during that time that I developed a vision to serve those in need around the world. My professional career as an instructor, advisor and mentor to students pursuing nutrition and health-related careers and now more recently as a counselor to the very ill have helped to develop these life-changing goals for service.

My work in Ethiopia will be as a nutritional consultant to the relief and development association of the church in Addis Ababa. I will partner with the leadership team there and their development agency and will be working on short and long term program needs, helping to develop training programs with the local staff and partners. It will probably involve some grant writing. A very central part of my assignment will be participating in the life of the church. I feel that God has been leading me at this time to serve the local church as I near the end of my professional career. I've been given this opportunity through my past interaction of preparing students who have become professional leaders in the Mennonite church and also more recently with persons that have critical needs and comfort and dignity at life's end. I ask for your continued support and prayers as I take on this challenge and new journey." ~ Lois Goertzen

there were certainly people with nicer homes, more spacious and generally more well kept than mine. Surely one of those families would be better suited for this task. My jobs as director of a preschool and education coordinator for my church keep me busy and my husband, George, works long hours as a school administrator and he teaches an evening class on top of that. Plus our son, Kevin, has moved back home for the semester as he completes his student teaching at a nearby school. We would be coming and going and I wondered if this was really the best place for her. She would have to stay in our daughter, Megan's room, available now that she is at college, but still full of her "things". When I shared my concerns with my family, they didn't agree. Kevin looked me in the eye and said, "Mom, it's not about the house. It's about the experience and the people." I knew he was right. Of course we said, "Yes!"

We first connected with Kansas Paraguay Partners when our children were in high school. They went to Asuncion on a three week education and cultural exchange in July of 2007. We had hosted an exchange student from Germany for a year just prior to that and it had been a great experience for us. Kevin and Megan had been taking

Kansas Paraguay Partners by Jeanette Leary

When I got a call about hosting a Paraguayan woman who would be working in my hometown of Newton for five weeks, my first thought was "why should we do this?" I knew

Janet Stucky's MST
← Pictured front—from left to right: Jeanette Stucky, Janet Stucky, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Sue Penner, Marlene Faul, Heidi Regier Kreider
Back—from left to right: Alan Lindal, Kevin Goertzen (Mennonite Mission Network, Ministry Support Team Coach) and Al Penner



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George, Jeanette, Kevin Leary and Susan Rhoades with Romy Fischer at the time of Romy's presentation at the Wednesday evening program entitled, "Other People, Other Places."

Romy made it to Washington D.C for election day before heading back to Paraguay. Of course, Kevin was right. Experiences like this help make our lives richer and more colorful. They make the world a little smaller, the boundaries fuzzier, our differences less apparent. It's not about the size of the house or the most up to date décor. It's simply about the people we meet and the stories we create together and right now I'm thinking I have another chapter to write. Thank you, Romy!

Spanish language classes and were eager to try out what they had learned. They were treated with great care while in Paraguay and met many wonderful people! Since then we have hosted another student from Denmark for a year and reciprocated the shorter exchange with a student from Paraguay.

Hosting Romy Fischer Shenk went just as I thought it would. We were busy and met each other coming and going. She spent time working with the City of Newton as a legislative fellow during the day and we learned about her life in Paraguay in the evenings. We met her family through the internet and webcams and we laughed as we tried to communicate in two languages all at once! She met other Paraguayan and other international students from WSU and they showed her around Wichita and central Kansas. We celebrated our October birthdays together with a party where she met my family and we met her new friends. Now we have more international connections! She cooked chipa guasu and milenesa for us and introduced us to burrito tea. (It's good for the stomach!) She was delightful, inquisitive and had a great sense of humor.

As quickly as it began, it was over! Our five weeks are complete and our house is a little quieter, our schedule a little less full.

Experiences like this help make our lives richer and more colorful. They make the world a little smaller, the boundaries fuzzier, our differences less apparent. It's not about the size of the house or the most up to date décor. It's simply about the people we meet and the stories we create together and right now I'm thinking I have another chapter to write. Thank you, Romy!

Godspell Junior —

Auditions for *Godspell Junior* will be two days, Friday, December 7, from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, December 8, from 1-3 p.m. All 4th-12th graders are invited to audition in five minute time slots. Contact Renee Reimer if you would like to sign-up for an audition slot! Please bring a short piece to sing and be prepared to read a short paragraph from the script.

Rehearsals for the musical will be for one hour on Sundays and intertwined with Wednesday night activities. The play itself is shorter than most because it is a Junior version. Many of the songs and characters have been shortened to make it more obtainable for our venue. Time commitment is minimal for a great experience such as this one and many laughs and great times will be shared. Everyone is encouraged to audition whether or not they prefer to sing or act; there are many possibilities for stage opportunities.

Adult Help is needed, especially on Wednesday nights, to be with actors who are not on stage.



Much of the rehearsal time on Wednesday will be broken up into segments so adults are needed to help go over lines and blocking or to work on other activities with the actors. We are also in need of someone to help coordinate costumes, find props, and build minimal props and set items. We would like to see lots of involvement in all areas of this production! A call for props may be sent out at a later date. Think about spending part of your Wednesday evening helping to make this musical a success! Contact Renee Reimer with any questions or concerns!
reneerei@bethelks.edu
605-212-0081

↑ All 4th-12th graders are invited to participate in *Godspell Junior*



This is Renee! ↑

Friendship Meals

On November 11, about 70 Bethel students enjoyed home-cooked meals prepared by BCMC members. These "friendship meals" as they have come to be called, are coordinated by the Bethel College Relations Team. "BCMC is on to a good relationship-building option with these meals," writes one host, Dorothy Nickel Friesen. "Several of the students we have had in the past two years are always friendly and greet us when we meet elsewhere!" Pictured: Keith and Aldine Sprunger hosting BC students for a meal in their home.

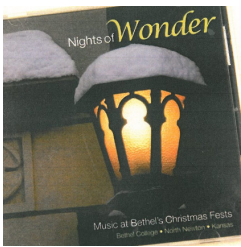


Nights of Wonder Christmas Fests at Bethel

Christmas Festivals at Bethel College Memorial Hall were special

three-night events in the 70's, 80's, and 90's. Thursdays and Saturdays were for the community and Friday evening was reserved for the college students. After the banquet dinner, the evening's entertainment was

presented by the music or drama department, or a combination of both. Since many of us are now at the age when we enjoy reminiscing about past experiences, a double CD has been put together featuring musical selections that were presented primarily from the last 20 Christmas Festivals. Performing groups include the Bethel choirs, the Sinfonia, Wind Ensembles, Madrigal Singers, 2nd Century Singers, and the Newton Community Children's Choir. This project was begun this last summer as a part of Bethel's 125th Anniversary. It was not completed by Fall Fest time, but will be available in early December of this year. Ilene Schmidt recounts a brief history of Christmas Fests at Bethel, and Robert Regier provided the photo design. The cost for this two-CD set will be \$20. The Bethel College Women's Association is assisting with marketing and publicity. All proceeds go to Bethel College. If you're looking for Christmas gifts,



this might be the answer! They will be available at the Bethel College Book Store.

Happy Belated 80th Birthday Mel Voth!



Parents, John and Helena Voth, welcomed son, Mel Voth, into their lives on January 21, 1932. Mel, together with his six siblings,

grew up on a farm near Walton, KS. The farm was a lot of work, Mel says, especially given the fact that they didn't have electricity until he was 10 years old. Mel's family belonged to Tabor Mennonite Church where he was bap-

tized in 1948. Mel attended Walton grade school for the first five grades and then he transferred to a one-room school house near the family farm through the 8th grade. Mel wanted to play competitive basketball in high school. Therefore, during his freshmen and sophomore years, he attended Newton High School and played basketball under John Ravenscroft's leadership. Then, it was back to Walton High School for Mel's junior and senior years. Mel's father, John, died during Mel's senior year in high school. This meant increased farm responsibilities for Mel and his siblings. And so after studying one year at Bethel College, Mel ran the family farm for one year. During that year, he convinced his mother to sell the farm and relocate to Newton. This way Mel could return to his studies at Bethel College. He completed his Economics degree and graduated from Bethel in 1955. That same year, just a month after college graduation, his draft number was called and he served 21 months in the army. Meanwhile, while Mel was married to his first wife, their family grew to include three children: Pat, Gina and Jeff. Mel knew that he wanted to earn a Masters in Business Administration and so following his 21 months in the army, he attended one quarter at Baylor and then transferred to Wichita State University where he earned a MBA, with emphasis in accounting. Later he earned a Doctorate Degree in Business from Indiana University. Since completing these degrees, Mel has taught accounting/ business classes, served as a consultant and held Chief Financial Officer positions in a variety of firms and banks. He taught at Wichita State University for eight years, worked at Hesston Corporation for 15 years, and taught at Thunderbird (American Graduate School of International Management) in Glendale, AZ. He even helped write a personal financial planning book. After Mel's first marriage ended, Mel met and then

later married, Mary Sue Sadowsky Hinton. Since their wedding on December 20, 1984, Mel and Mary Sue have had many adventures. They have lived and worked in Kansas City, Glendale, AZ, Colorado Springs, CO, Denver, CO, and now, North Newton. In 2008, after they both retired, they decided to spend four consecutive winters in South Texas volunteering at Evangelical Mission Ministry. Now, as residents of North Newton, they continue their love of volunteering with Mel serving on the Bluestem Communities Board, BCMC facilities committee, and as an ally with Circles of Hope. Even though Mel and Mary Sue have only been BCMC members since November 2010, they have added much to our community. And as Mel reminded me, he helped build this church, when as a Bethel student in 1954, he put shingles up! Perhaps Mary Sue said it best when she said that Mel is "a true servant of the Lord." Mel, you possess and share many gifts. May you continue to experience good health so that you and Mary Sue can continue to travel, keep up with your children and grandchildren, watch your favorite sports teams, volunteer and worship with us at BCMC. And while your accounting mind can't quite comprehend the 10,000 years vs. eternity reference in the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, may you know the grace of God that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Happy belated 80th, Mel.

~ Ruth R. Harder

Happy 80th Birthday Don Kaufman!



Donald David was born in Marion, South Dakota, on January 10, 1933, to David and Hulda (Graber) Kaufman.

Although eight children, including stepsister Lorraine, graced this family, three siblings died at age two or in infancy. A photo taken of Don at year one proves that he was a chubby baby. "They fed me well!" Childhood holds fond memories of cold winters, great fun playing in the snow, grasshoppers, and occasionally traveling to neighbors with a horse-drawn sled. Don knew himself to be shy when he began his formal schooling. At age seven he was too impatient at "Schlosser" Dist. #15 to wait for his sister to give him a ride to the butchering event at the farm. Walking two miles against a cold north wind while struggling with an unfastened pilot cap resulted in a frozen right ear! At age 10 he simultaneously experienced both measles and an appendectomy. Don was a trapper. Money acquired from pelts he used to purchase books, his life long passion. Don loved to read; he found he learned from books what no one told him. As a teen he was baptized into the Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, having been deeply impacted by Russell Mast's sermons about Anabaptist commitments. He was intrigued by drama, peace clubs, and contacts with Cheyenne students during his college years. Graduating from Bethel College in 1955 with a double major in Social Science/ Literature, he worked on the parental farm during the summers but chose to attend the Mennonite Seminary in Chicago. Eleanor Wismer was there pursuing a Masters in Religious Education. "She was interesting, and a good cook!" They married in August of 1958 at Deep Run West, Bedminster, Pennsylvania. Don volunteered at Prairie View while Eleanor completed her two years as Minister of Music at the Eden Congregation near Moundridge. For seven years the couple worked as MCC country representatives in Indonesia. Daughter Kendra was born there, but son Galen was born during a furlough to the U.S. Son Nathan was adopted as a newborn in Indonesia. For six years Don took pastoral jobs in Mt. Lake and Minneapolis, MN. His concerns about the

ethics of military taxes inspired him to write two books (reprinted by Wipf and Stock Publishers, Eugene, OR). Having known Palmer Becker as a neighbor in South Dakota the couple was invited to work with him as personnel coordinators for the Commission on Home Ministries. For short periods he labored with Ediger Insulation and the Mennonite Press. He enjoyed immensely working as Visitation Pastor for BCMC. Later the Board of Wheatland Homes invited him to serve as director for 62 HUD units. Those 17 years were for him "a nice experience in building community." As expected, Don's retirement years have not been sedate! In addition to being an M-2 Volunteer for 25 years as well as serving the needs of disabled persons he has planted approximately 50 oak, golden rain, and other trees at Sunset School. It has been gratifying to travel, visit family, and spend time with three grandchildren in Houston. Don admits a great need to learn how to validate others. In capping his story, Don recalls a favorite Henry David Thoreau quote, "What wealth it is to have such friends that we cannot think of them without elevation." Don, may joy fill your heart throughout this 80th year, in remembering, but as well within your daily interactions with many friends. You are a blessing!

~ Susan Wheeler

Happy 80th Birthday Boots Raber!



Boots was born as the noon whistle blew on January 24, 1933, in Pigeon, MI, in the home of her grandparents (where her parents

Henry and Barbara (Maust) Esch lived). Her parents allowed her older sister to select one of two names for the new baby: Joanne or

Beulah. Beulah was the choice, but their mother affectionately called the new baby "Bootsie" which - in its shortened form - stuck for the rest of Boots' life. Boots grew up surrounded by extended family, and after moving with her parents and siblings to a new home south of town, Boots was eager to attend the school next door to her grandparents' home. Boots was baptized at Pigeon River Mennonite Church, the congregation her family attended. When she was a freshman in high school, the family moved to Phoenix, AZ where they went to Sunnyslope Mennonite Church and Boots attended Glendale High School. For her senior year, Boots went to Hesston (KS) Academy where she met Merrill Raber. They went on to Goshen College and she received her AA degree there in 1954. They were married that same year, and later moved to Akron, PA, for Merrill to serve in 1W service at Mennonite Central Committee. During their time in Akron, children Mike and Barbara were born, and Boots and Merrill were charter members of Akron Mennonite Church. The next move took them to California for Merrill's graduate school and work, and they attended Friends and Presbyterian churches. In 1963 Merrill received a call from Prairie View and the family moved to Newton, where son Steve was born and they joined BCMC. In 1976, Boots went to work as office manager for the Newton-based National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters which allowed her to meet people from around the country. She retired in 1992, and later worked as secretary for Merrill F. Raber Associates for about 10 years. Together with Merrill, Boots has enjoyed traveling, musical experiences such as the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield and the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, working on family histories and, currently, a history of Kansas Paraguay Partners, and keeping up with their

seven grandchildren. At BCMC, Boots has sung in choir for nearly 50 years, along with involvement such as Mission Quilters, Women's Fellowship, Church Board, and Art and Decoration Committee. Boots' life journey is one of ever-broadening perspectives, enriched by the variety of churches and communities in which she has participated. We are grateful that this journey has brought Boots to BCMC. As the hymn says, *My life flows on in endless song*. May it be so for Boots now and in the years to come!

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

With Our Members

Marriages: Dorothy Stucky Harder and Keith Janzen married June 30, 2012 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Membership Changes:

- David and Sydney Stigge-Kaufman terminated their wider fellowship membership.
- Margaret Sawatzky terminated membership.
- Marilyn Klaus requested a change to wider fellowship membership.

50th Wedding Anniversary:



**December 29, 1962
Congratulations Marvin and
Shirley (Goertzen) Thieszen!**

Book Signings:

Emerson Wiens will have a book signing for his memoir-based book, *Mad Bulls, Skinny Dipping and God at Pages Bookstore*, 605 N. Main, Newton, Saturday, December 15, 1 p.m.

Obituaries



Esther Peters Unruh
September 18, 1924 – October 14, 2012
Esther Peters Unruh, 88, homemaker and retired United

Printing and Office Supply Employee, died Sunday October 14. Born in Henderson, Nebraska, Esther moved to Kansas to attend Bethel College. While at Bethel, she met Allen Unruh, whom she married on November 28, 1947. The Unruhs farmed near Hillsboro, Kansas for nine years before they moved to North Newton. After the death of her husband, Esther moved to Kidron Bethel where she enjoyed an active retirement with family and many good friends. Esther will be missed by her family and friends. Esther is survived by her children Yvonne Coulter of Wichita, Charlotte (Bruce) Kreider of North Newton, Douglas (Beth) Unruh of rural Walton, and Suone (Tim) Graber of rural Moundridge. She has seven grandchildren, Erica Coulter, Kristin Kreider, Rustin Coulter, Elyse Butcher, Katherine Unruh, Andrew Unruh, and Callie Unruh and numerous great-grandchildren. Esther is also survived by brother-in-law Albert D. Friesen of Henderson, NE, and sister-in-law Eunice (Willis) Esau of Hutchinson, KS. Esther was preceded in death by her parents Isaac and Tina Peters, husband of 52 years Allen Unruh, son Kenneth Unruh, son-in-law Craig Coulter, sisters Anna Friesen, Tina Friesen, and Hildegard Miller.

Obituaries Continued



Horton W. Flaming August 6, 1934—October 15, 2012
Horton was born near Corn, Oklahoma to a family of Mennonite

farmers. His family moved to California in 1940, settling in Reedley (near Fresno). Polio struck Horton at age 11. His mother died while he was in the hospital. In later years he was again physically challenged by Post-Polio syndrome. During school (Reedley High School, Reedley College, Bethel College, Fresno State, Emporia State) Horton was a ferocious Ping-Pong player, state champion swimmer (5 mile event), state champion (both CA & KS) in speech, and competed in national speech events. He was a leader in student government in H.S., Jr. College, and at Bethel College. Horton and his wife, Elsie, have stayed connected to Bethel. Horton served as president of the Alumni Committee. In 2009, the Flamings moved from Augusta to North Newton to live at Kidron Bethel Village.

Elsie Mae Wicke and Horton were married in 1961. They met at Bethel College. Horton loved the outdoors: fishing, camping, fishing, hunting, fishing, traveling, and fishing. Regular camping and fishing trips with the Grahams, Churchmans, Gristis, and others were famous for the rain, tube boats, fish fries, and camp fires. Both Horton and Elsie enjoyed travel. For years they camped all over the country: Canada for fishing, CA to visit family, the East Coast, Texas. After they “retired” they started taking bus and barge tours. They were soon recruited to be tour directors and led multiple tours around the country; making many friends in the process. Horton’s faith was a central part of his life. The summer after he graduated from Bethel (1956) he served

as the Intern Summer Minister at Beatrice, NE. He was always teaching adult Sunday school classes or Bible studies. He carried the burden of leadership for decades in many roles at the Augusta First United Methodist Church. After college Horton taught psychology and history at Conway Springs, KS for five years. He also coached drama, speech and debate. He then taught at Augusta, KS two years before becoming the high school counselor for 27 years. He ran a special career learning event for a number of years, served as football announcer, and was named the Augusta Master Teacher in 1974.

Horton was preceded in death by his mother Susie (Janzen), father Ernest, and step mother Bertha. He is survived by his wife Elsie of 51 years, his brother Vernon (Doris), step sisters Alberta (Carty), and Donna (Lloyd), and step brother Richard (Vera). Horton and Elsie have two sons Kevan (Brenda); Garth (Lisa), and four grandchildren: Braxton, Garrett, Billie, Garth. In keeping with Horton’s passion for education and helping others, memorial gifts can be made to the *Wicke – Flaming Scholarship* at Bethel College, 300 E. 27th St., North Newton, KS 67117



J. Harold Moyer May 6, 1927 – October 28, 2012
John Harold Moyer was born to John F. and Helen Isaac Moyer Newton. He

grew up near the Bethel College campus as the youngest of three boys. He attended Newton public schools, played cornet in the school band, and studied piano with Tina Voth. He attended Bethel College Mennonite Church with his family, and on May 13, 1941 was baptized by Reverend J. N. Smucker. After his junior year of high school, he

enrolled at Bethel College and completed a year of study before being drafted. He served in Civilian Public Service at Camp Camino in California and Akron, Pennsylvania. He returned to Bethel and graduated in 1949 with a major in music and minor in education. He received a scholarship to George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee, and completed his master’s degree in music composition there in 1951. He taught at Freeman Junior College (FJC) in Freeman, South Dakota. Harold was drafted a second time (for the Korean conflict), and served 11 months in I-W service at Boys’ Industrial School in Topeka, Kansas, where he taught music. He returned to Freeman and taught there until 1955. On August 30, 1955, Harold and Rosemary Linscheid were married at Salem Mennonite Church at Freeman. They moved to Iowa, where Harold began a doctoral program at the University of Iowa. Harold completed his PhD while teaching at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana (1957-59). Daughter Janet was born in 1958. In 1959, the family moved to North Newton, where Harold became music professor at Bethel College. They purchased the P. R. Voth home near the campus, and lived there until 2004. Daughter Rachel was born in 1962. Harold taught music courses at Bethel until his retirement in 1992, when he received professor emeritus status. During his tenure at Bethel he served the college on many committees, as acting registrar, director of alumni relations, director of experiential learning, and chair of the music department. During summers and sabbatical leaves Harold focused on composing, which resulted in many choral and instrumental works. In the 1960s he served on the hymnal committee for The Mennonite Hymnal, a cooperative effort of the General Conference and (Old) Mennonite churches. Thirteen of the hymns in the hymnal contain an

original Moyer tune or harmonization. Harold was active in Kansas Mennonite Men’s Chorus (KMMC). As a member of BCMC he sang in the choir, taught junior high Sunday school, and served on the Visitation Team. During retirement, he and Walter Just provided leadership for Life Enrichment programs at Bethel College, he delivered Meals on Wheels, and continued to compose and arrange music.

He is survived by his wife, Rosemary; daughter Janet and Dwight Regier; daughter Rachel and Clayton Harrison; grandchildren Daniel and Sara Rickard Regier, Miriam Regier, Peter Regier, Rebecca, Melissa, and David Harrison; sister-in-law Anna Moyer. Harold was preceded in death by his parents, brother Herman and Mildred Moyer, and brother Melvin Moyer.

Meet the Sojourner’s Sunday School Class

Walk with me back through the years as we *sojourn* through the history of this BCMC Sunday School Class, that has grown from about six or seven couples with small children in the late 1950s to about 55 people in today’s class. After more than 50 years, some facts are a bit hazy, but about six of the original members still attend: Clarence and Gladys Niles, Lanoy and Mary Esther Loganbill, Dave Warkentine (and Barbara), and Lois (and Orlando) Goertzen. Their first meeting place was in the sanctuary balcony in front of the nursery. In those early years, the class used the church quarterly for lessons, and their first teacher was Willard Unruh. At some point they moved to the Science Hall and their teacher was Dr. Harold Vogt.

The Music Library in the Fine Arts Center became the new home of the class, known then as

Continued next page

The Music Library Class, which had grown to include many more of our current members. The class lessons changed to more contemporary subjects brought up by class members. Around 1986, the procedure changed and lesson sessions were planned ahead that included current issues in the church and community; discussions about articles in church publications and book reviews; and personal sharing, to name a few, led by various members in the class. After leaving the Fine Arts Center, we spent a short period of time on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

After the addition to the north side of BCMC, the class moved again, this time to Room 23 in the northwest corner of the second floor. At some point in about 1989-90 the class chose a committee to bring suggestions for a formal name for the class. The most popular name was *The Sojourners*, based on our *temporary stays* within the church and college campus. The class made one last move about ten years ago to across the hall to Room 28. In more recent years, the format of planning for Sunday School has changed. All individuals/ couples are divided into five groups, and each group plans lessons for a two month period, with no formal class sessions in June and July. In addition to subjects used throughout the years, more Bible study and theological issues, led by people such as John Esau, Patty Shelly, and Duane Friesen have been added to our studies. As new members join our class, they share with us their life stories, hopes and dreams, which everyone looks forward to and enjoys.

The heart of this class

is much more than the formal Sunday School session each week, and that is the lasting friendships and fellowship experienced by members. Many of the friendships go beyond the church doors into everyday life. Many class outings have included eating together in every conceivable restaurant near and far to Newton, or sharing catered meals in a wide area in Kansas. Before the class grew to its present size, meals and socials were often held in various members' homes. To name a few, there have been many all-day visits or overnight trips taken to exotic places such as:

- The Hays, Kansas, area, to see the various museums and cathedrals, including singing Hymn 606 in the Cathedral of the Plains at Victoria, Kansas.
- Several overnight events at Camp Mennoscah.
- Wildflower outing to the Flint Hills, then spending the night at the Cottonwood Falls Hotel.
- Walking tour of Dyck Arboretum, followed by a salad supper at King Park Shelter House.
- Breakfast at Tiffany's (Coyne Creek Ranch), then Flint Hills backroads through Matfield Green, etc. ending at Hays House in Council Grove for lunch.
- To Elk Falls, visiting "A Living Ghost Town in the Heart of Kansas Ozarks".
- Worship in the hills.
- Attending St. George Orthodox Christian Cathedral



worship service, then eating at Middle Eastern Restaurant.

- Visiting the Muslim Community Center in Wichita, and sharing a covered dish meal with the congregation.
- Attending the MCC Sale in Oklahoma.

The true legacy of the Sojourner's Class goes far beyond these fun times shared, to the caring help provided to class members, and to the wider church and community. A few of these activities include:

- For ten years, holding a large garage sale on a Saturday before the MCC sale in fellowship hall, spending hundreds of hours planning, marking and collecting items that filled fellowship hall. Records reveal that the class earned more than \$35,000 for MCC at these sales.
- Helped Laura Ann Schrag after Elmer's death, to prepare for her auction.
- Served food at members' sales: Glendon and Reitha Klassen, Dave Warkentine, and Clayton Kaufman.
- Helped numerous times at MCC Center and Camp Mennoscah.
- Hosted and served dinners to benefit Hospice and a MMA dinner.
- Provided lawn care for BCMC and held several painting projects for the church.
- Supported the MCC Sale for many years, including the Francis Funk tool project.
- Memorials given for at least 13 members of the class who have died.

Current members of the Sojourner's Class include: *Helen Bertrand, Marlene Faul, Elsie Flaming, Marlin and Deane Frey, John and Mary Gaeddert, Bonnie Goering, Lois Goertzen, Paul and Eldine Harder, *Willis and Dorothy Harder, Paul and Shirley Harms, Marvin and Joyce Holck, Leona Kaufman, Clara Koehn, Edie Krehbiel, Lanoy and Mary Esther Loganbill, Howard and Evelyn Lohrentz, Clarence and Gladys Niles, Larry and Karen Penner, Evelyn Quiring, Keith and Susan Rhoades, Hartzel and Ilene Schmidt, Laura Ann Schrag, Alma Shelly, Richard and Frances Siemens, LaVern and Marilyn Stucky, Wayne and Sharon Stucky, *John and *Alice Suderman, Myron and Mildred Voran, Omar and Carolyn Voran, Mel and Mary Sue Voth, Ken and Hulda Voth, Dave and Marilyn Warkentine, Emerson and LaWanda Wiens.

*These members participate in the Bible study group, but attend Sojourner's class socials.

Thanks for much of the information in this article goes to Gladys Niles who has kept a large file of activities of the Sojourner's class. *Karen Penner*.

Members of the Sojourners
Sunday School Class in
Room 28

Living Stones — *Gratitude for the Past, Building for the Future*

Living Stones (An update adapted from the *Kingdom Report* presented on Nov. 18, 2012 by Dick Koontz, Living Stones Implementation Task Force chair)

In recent months we have had wonderful conversations about Living Stones, our long range plan for BCMC and our financial commitments to those plans. These conversations have also given us opportunity to talk about “living stones” - people who have inspired, challenged and supported BCMC through the years. Our church has been blessed by God with people who take their Christian faith seriously, think critically and hold their faith deeply, but also have respect for those who believe differently. I thank volunteers who made around 220 Living Stones visits. In addition, a mailing was sent to 340 members and wider fellowship members who live outside the area. Thanks to all who participated in visits in your homes, shared your time, thoughts and resources, and returned intent forms. Also, this Fall the Implementation Task Force

appointed a group to work on heating and air conditioning details, and an Organ Renovation Task Force.

So where are we with the Living Stones campaign? As of Nov. 28, there have been 199 Living Stones intents turned in. Combined with other resources, we are at \$834,420 toward a goal of \$1,222,000. We are hopeful that additional intent forms will be returned and that the dollar total will continue to increase. If you have not yet returned your intent forms please do so as soon as possible!

At their August meeting our church Board passed a Living Stones Fund-Raising Plan which stated that “After the fund-raising process is substantially complete the Implementation Task Force will bring a recommendation for prioritization of the long-term plan projects for Church Board approval by January 3, 2013.” The Implementation Task Force is now turning attention to this task. The January 27 congregational meeting will give us opportunity to seek guidance from the congregation on Living Stones and our 2013 annual budget. May we continue to have meaningful conversations with each other about our church, about our faith, about our love for each other and about our love for God. Please keep our church in your thoughts and prayers.



Pastor's Corner Heidi Regier Kreider

Christmas is not complete without Handel's *Messiah*! A member of BCMC expressed this sentiment to me, as we filed into the sanctuary for the annual Bethel College *Messiah*-sing recently. Indeed, I found myself getting a lump in my throat as the first strains of “Comfort ye...” floated out over the sanctuary packed with students, faculty, staff, BCMC and community members. We were an unrehearsed, impromptu choir - some of whom had sung *Messiah* numerous times and nailed every chorus entrance, others who struggled to keep up with the 16th notes, and some who may have never heard it before. For some, I suppose, it was just the last convocation credit of the semester, or the first time they had ever sat in church with women on one side and men on the other (thanks to the divisions of soprano, alto, tenor and bass). But whatever else it was, it always seems to me to be a minor miracle that a crowd of people can show up and sing the *Messiah* without any rehearsal! It helps, of course, that it is familiar to so many of us - a ritual beloved by many and endured by some (one student

conductor told me with great relief that this was his 5th - and final - occasion to direct the *Messiah*-sing at Bethel).

In contrast, one of my associations with the *Messiah* is from when I myself was a senior at Bethel College, during the Fall semester that I spent in Gaborone, Botswana, with my parents who were serving there as Mennonite mission workers. I participated in singing the *Messiah* sponsored by a local choral society. Our choir performed it in Gaborone, and then took it on the road to the rural diamond-mining town of Jwaneng. There we sang it in a sweltering hall (remember, this is December in southern Africa) before a sea of people - mostly children - sitting on the floor. I imagine that most if not all of them had never heard of Handel or the *Messiah*. But they listened with rapt attention. It was one of the most satisfying *Messiah*-sings I have ever participated in!

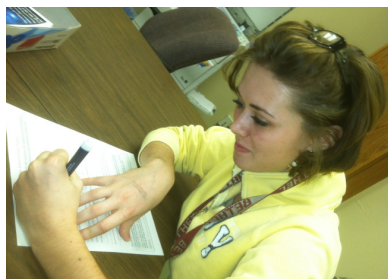
As Christmas approaches, whether this season finds us nostalgic, weary or astonished, may the Advent of Christ find a way into our hearts and lives once again - or for the very first time.



Volunteers from Bethel College Mennonite Church and Faith Mennonite Church

recently came together to serve at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter (November 28-December 4). Every

three months and for one week at a time, coordinators from the two churches, Valetta Seymour and Grace Bartel, recruit volunteers who serve supper and work evening and over-night shifts at the shelter. Pictured here is Katie Schmidt, Bethel College student and BCMC Witness Intern, participating in a shelter volunteer orientation session. Also pictured, at the shelter, are Zoe Siemens, Marlene Faul and members of the Agape Sunday school class (Ruth R. Harder, Tim Schrag and Jesse Graber) serving the November 29 evening meal, which had been cooked by the Agape Sunday school class. Volunteers are always needed during the four weeks assigned to our churches each year. Please contact Valetta Seymour at 620-345-2733 or vmseymour@mtelco.net if you are interested in becoming involved. Bethel College Mennonite Church's next turn to help at the Homeless Shelter is February 27 to March 5, 2013.



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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

December 2012—Advent Schedule—Preludes at 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

December 2—1st Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Violinists Rebecca Schloneger and Daniel Colwell; Chancel Bells. Worship with music by Cherub Choir and Chancel Bells, meditation by Heidi Regier Kreider and observance of Communion

December 9—2nd Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Hearts 4 Him men's vocal ensemble
Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Junior Choir and Chancel Choir

December 16—3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Sunflower Trio
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Menno Ringers

December 23—4th Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Brass ensemble led by Aaron Linscheid
Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir

December 24—Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. *Gifts of Christmas* by children and youth
10:30 p.m. Prelude by Rich Toews
11:00 p.m. Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols with music by Chancel Choir and bells

December 30—Christmas Sunday—Note the later times

9:30 a.m. Prelude: Organist, Eleanor Kaufman
10:00 a.m. Worship with Christmas carol singing
11:00 a.m. Coffee and fellowship—bring goodies to share (no Sunday school)

January 2013

January 6—Epiphany

Regular Sunday morning schedule resumes

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells

7:00 p.m. Memorial Communion Service—Sanctuary

January 13

Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Chancel Choir

January 20

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Menno Ringers and Chancel Bells

January 27—Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir

11:45 a.m. Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall — Everyone is invited!

12:45 p.m. Congregational meeting in Sanctuary