

# KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

December 2013—January 2014 7:6



## Meet Weldon Martens, Interim Associate Pastor for Faith Formation



per, Kansas at Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church from 1984 to 1995; Bethesda Mennonite at Henderson, Nebraska from 1995-2010. From 2010-2011 he was interim Vice President of Student Life at Bethel.

One week after his graduation from Bethel he was married to Jenny Harms, also a student at Bethel. They were married at Grace Hill Mennonite Church where Jenny was a member. She is the daughter of Merrill and Gladys Harms, now living in North Newton. Jenny is a Physician Assistant at the Veterans Association Clinic in Hutchinson. Weldon and Jenny have two daughters Laurel Martens living in Boston, Massachusetts, and Michaela Martens in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Weldon Martens was born at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, to Nick and Wilma Martens of Inman. He grew up and attended grade school and high school in Inman. Three other siblings were born to this family, brothers Delon, Orlin and Weldon's twin brother Eldon.

Weldon attended Bethel College and graduated in 1977. He went on to study at Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana where he received his Master of Divinity degree in 1984. Weldon recalled that one of the highlights of his Bethel experience was studying Bible where he couldn't get enough of it. While at Bethel he played basketball, and participated in persuasive speaking in forensics.

Two pastorates that he held prior to BCMC were Har-

gation. He finds the office staff most helpful as he learns the ropes.

Weldon shared one thing with me that made me smile. Jenny is five days older, and he's quite certain that they were both in the Bethel Hospital nursery at the same time. You never know how and where you'll find the person who will be your life companion.

It has been a gift for me to begin learning to know Weldon; I find him to be a personable and delightful man. Welcome, Weldon, hopefully your journey here is a good one. ~ Lois Goertzen

## Christmas Eve Program

The Children's Christmas program "Let Us Go to Bethlehem and See" will be presented Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. In picture and song the children will portray nine scenes from the birth of Jesus from Luke 1 and 2. Don't miss this great program presented by the children of BCMC!



## Nursery Shower



Help outfit the new nursery!

A "Nursery Shower" (come and go) to raise funds for the new nursery will take place December 11 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A nursery update and cookies will be provided! The goal is to raise \$3,000 to purchase new items for the enjoyment of parents and their young children. See you there!

## Living Stones Organ Renovation Update

Renovations at BCMC continue on the main floor foyer, restrooms and nursery, with completion scheduled for late December! Work in November has included installing lights and ceiling grid, cabinet work, painting, doors and frames, and ongoing installation of heating and air-conditioning equipment.

*continued next page*

Weldon has spent some time hosting international tours arranged by Menno Travel in Pennsylvania. One of these tours was to Greece and one to Germany.

He enjoys attending musicals and opera performances. When asked about his hopes and dreams, he said serving the church.

Weldon enjoys being at BCMC and is discovering people he knows in the congre-



Nursery – looking toward changing table and sink, and janitor's closet, in north-east corner. (architect's drawing)

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## Living Stones Organ Renovation Update continued

Meanwhile, work also continues on the pipe organ which is set up at Dobson Organ Builders in Lake City, IA. Here is an update from Dobson sent in mid-November: The new Great and Swell slider chests' magnets have been tested and the slider seals checked for leaks. The wind system has also been tested. A portable blower was used for testing, since the church's blower was not removed with the organ last spring. The taller pipes in the organ have all been racked and checked for overhead clearance to avoid coming in



Organ swell box

contact with the chamber ceiling. The new swell shade action motor and linkage is finished and operates nice and quietly. All that is left to be done in the erecting room is to rebuild and install the tremulants. The console is 90% finished with some wiring left to be done. The majority of the remaining work is the voicing of the new ranks and going over the existing pipework. The date for the return of the organ is January 20, 2014. The projected date for the completion of the installation and the final tonal finishing is March 7, 2014. ~ Heidi Regier Kreider and Harold Thieszen



Front of organ console, without pedals

## Update from Janet Stucky



Janet with her French instructor ←

**(Serving with Mennonite Mission Network in Benin** —from a prayer letter sent in October 2013):

My employment at ONG (non-governmental organization) Bethesda will gradually begin as I will be of assistance for English translation and writing letters that need to be provided

in the English language. Bethesda began in 1990 with assistance from American and Canadian missionaries. They had a vision for an integrated health care program based on participating community members to face their health and environmental problems and improve the local community's welfare. What began as a health center has today become a large hospital with departments of pediatrics, ophthalmology (eye clinic), cardiology, gastroenterology, and

obstetrical-gynecology and an AIDS treatment center. Initially the focus was on treatment of reoccurring illnesses including gastroenteritis, malaria, and bronchial pneumonia due to poor living conditions. Today the hospital works to treat as well as use preventative measures with an active sanitation/recycling program and a micro-finance department which uses community savings to promote income generating activities for its members. With the focus on empowering the local community, Bethesda has won several international awards for best practices and in 2007 received the NGO award in Africa given by the United Nations. Bethesda's logo which is displayed in the atrium of the ground floor represents the healing water's pool of Bethesda as described in John 5.

I continue my French lessons daily. I have learned to read French and know many words! The challenge is to put the words together in sentences and also to understand what is being said in conversations. My instructor is beginning to gear my lessons toward basic health and nutrition. Here we are together pronouncing the utensils needed to cook a typical Beninese meal. My assignment

was to interview someone who does cooking in the household, likely over a charcoal fire, to determine ingredients and write directions in French to follow the recipe. My instructor and I will go together to the local market, bargain for the ingredients and cook the meal together. Typical foods are sauces made from a mixture of many vegetables and fish or other meats that are finely minced, boiled and then eaten with cassava or a paste of yams and or beans.

I covet your ongoing prayers of support in my relationship building and the challenges of communication.

~ Janet Stucky

**Sunday, Nov. 17**, during coffee time at 10:30 a.m. in the BCMC Fellowship Hall, cupcakes were served to celebrate the birthday of Janet Stucky, BCMC member serving with Mennonite Mission Network in Benin. Janet's birthday is November 19. Her support team is pictured below:

Jeanette Stucky, Marlene Faul, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Sue Penner and Al Penner. Cupcakes on the left had balloons on them; on the right the cupcakes had a map of Africa with a star for the country of Benin.



## Meet the Bible Study Sunday School Class

The Bible Study class had its beginnings with Dotty Janzen as the leader. With an indication that there was the need for another Sunday school class in the church, it began with a handful of interested members who had a desire to do a more intentional Bible study. The small group gradually increased in numbers over the years and today they number around 17. The class meets September through May. The course of study was sometimes chosen by the leader, and often stemmed from suggestions by members. On occasion outside leaders were used for leading special studies. Among these has been Doug Miller from Tabor College, Patty Shelly and John Esau from this church.

Socials that the group has enjoyed were eating at an Indian restaurant in Wichita, or having potlucks or other meals together at various places.

Current leaders in charge of programming are Norma Johnson and Willis Harder. The membership today includes Dan Baumgartner, Helen Bertrand, Tina Block Ediger, Willis Harder, Marilyn Harrold, Alison Hiebert, Margaret Hiebert, Nancy Hilty, Dotty Janzen, Norma Johnson, Vern Preheim, Marilyn Stucky, Alice Suderman, John Suderman, Marvin Thieszen, Shirley Thieszen and Orletta Wiebe.

It is heartwarming to know that all members in the church have an opportunity to be a part of a group that fills their needs.

*~Lois Goertzen based on an interview with Dotty Janzen*



## Reading the Bible in 90 Days

Members of the Bible Study class have committed to Reading the Bible in 90 days. From January 5 through April 6 they will read 12 pages a day from the New International Version of The Bible in 90 Days. The Bible in 90 days project was developed by Ted Cooper of Houston, Texas when after being “happily agnostic” for 43 years decided to read the entire Bible, cover to cover. His life was forever changed by that experience and that is how he developed this reading program for others to experience it as well.

This is not intended to be a Bible study, but it is meant to be the intentional reading the Bible through as a story, as one would read a novel. It is suggested to not question things along the way, just read the prescribed daily pages. At the end of each week of reading the Bible Study class will meet in Fellowship Hall to view a DVD relating to the week’s reading, and time will include encouragement, accountability and group discussion. In the spring of 2011 some members of Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita participated in this commitment. There was an overwhelming positive response from doing

this and all agreed that their faith in Jesus Christ was enriched. Another resource that might be used in conjunction with this is The Essential Bible Companion written by John H. Walton, Mark L. Strauss, and Ted Cooper, Jr., which includes a synopsis of each book of the Bible including maps, themes, timelines, key people and terms. These two books are available at Faith & Life Bookstore, however, any version of the Bible may be read by using an outline provided.

The members of the Bible Study class need to be commended for taking on this project, and I wish them well in their journey. Anyone interested in doing this is invited to join the class from January 5 through April 6. Hopefully we’ll be hearing more from them along the way in the first part of 2014.

*~ Lois Goertzen; information from Norma Johnson and literature from the Hope Mennonite Church experience.*

## Mothering Mennonite Symposium

The Mothering Mennonite Symposium, Oct. 26 at Bethel College, began with a general introduction to

the day by Rachel Epp Buller, setting the stage and describing how the symposium had come about. *Woven*, the women’s small vocal group from Bethel then started the day singing, “When I Went Down to the River to Pray”. The group then broke for the first of the presentation sessions. The day was organized with concurrent sessions so that one had to choose for each half hour session what one wanted to attend. While that gave one choice, perhaps the only negative comments heard all day were that people lamented being unable to hear all the sessions. Here is an overview of some of the sessions:

“Transnational Mothering and Identity in Old Colony Mennonites”, presented by Kerry Fast, co-editor of Mothering Mennonite. She has done extensive research with the Old Colony Mennonites in Canada, Mexico and Bolivia and discussed the conflicted loyalties which arise as many of the families she has studied have moved back and forth between these countries. Clearly she has done extensive first hand research on the topic, and speaks Low German so is able to conduct interviews directly with the women, many of whom do not speak English.

“Social Construction of Mennonite Mothering Identity” by Bill Loewen, sociology professor at Sioux Falls College, Sioux Falls, SD. He grew up Mennonite Brethren and he and his siblings authored one of the essays in Mothering Mennonite. He talked about Mothering Mennonite today and stated that the great difference in our current culture is that the church plays a much

smaller role and society a much greater role in defining how we mother.

A panel discussion on “expanded Models of Mothering” by four presenters ranged from adopting at the age of 70; a lesbian couple who have fostered children and adopted one; dealing with infertility; and a couple where the male is the full time home parent.

“Code Words and Denial: Transforming the John Howard Yoder Discussion with the Language of Sexual Consent” presented by Stephanie Krehbiel. Her presentation focused not only on the Yoder case but also about Mennonite men and sexuality in general.

“Mothering in the Borderlands” by Audrey Kraybill who is in her ‘50s, has a gay son and has been very involved in the Pink Menno movement in support of all the gay young people in the church who are trying to be heard.

“The Surprise Activist: How Mennonite Motherhood Heightened my Response to a U.S. Culture of Inequity and Violence” by Anna Dick Gambucci, a young mother who has become very political on community issues; getting involved in the Obama elections and most recently speaking before the legislature in MN on the issue of gun control.

The day ended with a short general session, a brief wrap-up by Rachel and two more songs by *Woven*, a fitting end to the day. There was a clear consensus that it had been an incredibly stimulating and affirming day.

~ Dianne Epp and edited by Lois Goertzen  
*Editorial Note:*

The symposium was scheduled to coincide with the visit to campus of Marlene Epp, professor of history and peace and

conflict studies at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, Ontario. Epp gave the annual Menno Simons Lectures at Bethel Oct. 27-29.

## Engaging Our Sexual Culture

Over 130 people including a number of BCMC members attended a gathering on Oct. 26 entitled *Homosexuality: A Conversation That Can Hold Us Together*, sponsored by the Western District Conference Human Sexuality Discernment Task Force. The task force envisioned this as an occasion to listen, learn and dialogue together in a spirit of love and respect even in the midst of disagreements. Presentations by speakers focused on the church’s response to persons of same-sex orientation and those in committed same-gender relationships. Keynote speakers were Keith Graber Miller, professor of Bible, Religion and Philosophy at Goshen College, IN, and David Boshart, Executive Conference Minister for Central Plains Conference of Mennonite Church USA. Several other speakers offered responses from theological, pastoral and personal perspectives. Guided table-conversation invited participants to express their convictions about same-gender relationships; and worship and scripture reflections rounded out the day. For one news story about this event see <http://www.mennoworld.org/2013/1/11/mc-usa-district-airs-contrasting-viewpoints-during/>. Saturday’s symposium was preceded by related events at Bethel College on Oct 25, co-sponsored by the Human Sexuality Discernment Task Force and Bethel College Campus Ministries. Keith Graber Miller spoke in Convo-

cation on *Shameless Sexuality*, and in the evening a drama was presented by Ted Swartz of Ted and Company Theaterworks on *A Peek in to the Church’s Journey with Sexuality*, followed by a dialogue between Swartz and Graber Miller. I am grateful for these opportunities for our church community to engage matters of sexuality, and pray that authentic and respectful conversation can continue, as we seek to embody sexuality in ways that are faithful, wholistic and just. ~ Heidi Regier Kreider (Heidi served on the Western District Conference Human Sexuality Discernment Task Force which planned these events)

## Happy 80th Birthday Marilyn Harrold!



Marilyn Harrold was born to Peter and Anna (Lohrenz) Kliever on January 24, 1934, in Mountain Lake, Minnesota. She was the youngest of four. Her siblings, a sister and two brothers, were quite a bit older with sister, Esther, a senior in high school when baby Marilyn came along! The family enjoyed the riches of farm life; abundant garden produce and fried chicken at its best. Marilyn recalls learning to ride a bike and taking a bad fall, leaving her skinned up just in time for children’s day at Bethel Mennonite Church. She joined the church by baptism on May, 21, 1950. Marilyn was fourteen when hard times struck when her father suffered a stroke and died unexpectedly. The family

moved to town, and she and mother supported one another through days of grief and transition. Thankfully, high school years were good ones with involvement in pep-band playing clarinet which meant accompanying the basketball team to state three years in a row, singing in their “very good” choir, science classes, and most of all, spending time with her dear childhood friend, Lenore (Pankratz) Waltner. Marilyn knew that she wanted to study nursing but found the financial circumstances of the family limited. She was happy when asked by the Superintendent of schools to work in their office. This opportunity lasted three years. In 1958 Marilyn was able to complete nurses training at Bethel College and Bethel Deaconess Hospital. She and Don Harrold met in Newton and they were married on December 30, 1960. In years following, daughters Janna and Susan were born, and Marilyn worked part-time in OB and OR. In 1975 she began classes at Wesley Hospital in Wichita for training in anesthesia. She worked at this challenging and fulfilling job in various capacities from 1976 through 2011. A very sad part of life was when daughter Janna was diagnosed with cancer. After a heroic four year battle, Janna died in their home on January 20, 1991. Marilyn and Don were able to spend precious time with Janna and to give her as much loving care as possible. Marilyn recalls memories of the quality days Janna spent with children in the BCMC play school, too. Words from Philippians 4:7, “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,” sustained her, she says. A move to their

current home in North Newton added purpose for her and for Don as well, as they remodeled and redecorated. Marilyn confesses that she might have been an interior decorator if nursing hadn't taken precedence. She is also a seamstress who made daughter Susan's wedding dress, a quilter who is now finding time to quilt with others at church, plus enjoys knitting baby caps for Newton Medical Center. Marilyn and Don have had a good time on several trips, and are very blessed when able to spend time with their family and granddaughter. Marilyn, you have so generously and skillfully shared your many talents and abilities. Through hard work, commitment, and genuine faith, your life has brought glory to God. May the wonderful grace of Jesus and the peace of God which passes understanding always guard your heart and mind, I pray. Many blessings in this 80<sup>th</sup> year of life!

~ Susan Wheeler

## With Our Members

### Births:

\* Olivia Suzy Brubacher born to Jake and Marie Brubacher, Brookline, MA, Oct. 9, 2013

\* Eleanor Anne Wedel Murphy born to Kate Brubacher and Grayson Murphy, New York, NY, Nov. 4, 2013

### Anniversaries:

\* Happy 25th Anniversary to Brent and Karen Lehman, Newton on Jan. 14, 2014

\* Happy 25th Anniversary to Roger and Shari Rutschman, Newton, Jan. 28, 2014

## Coming to Terms by A. Emerson Wiens

A. Emerson Wiens has a new book of poetry, *Coming to*

*Terms and Other Poems*, available at Faith & Life Bookstore.

In *Coming to Terms*, Emerson explores the human condition in the context of his own life, and takes a look at American culture, sometimes humorously, sometimes critically. Having been raised in a religiously conservative home, he raises philosophical and religious questions that every serious thinker will ponder. In the "Tributes and End Time" section, he remembers persons important in his life and addresses issues of death and dying including his own anticipated death. Glimpses of his humor are sprinkled throughout, especially evident in the rhymed children's poems. In the last section, he expresses his love and respect for the natural world. Thirty pen and pencil sketches are used to illustrate selective poems. There is something for everyone in this book, and many ideas to attract your intellect and your affection.

Emerson Wiens will be having a reading of this book as well as his autobiographical novel, *Mad Bulls, Skinny Dipping, and God* at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Public Library on January 22, 2014. Here is a poem from *Coming to Terms*.

### Sunday Worship

We come together Sunday morning,  
drawn by a common heritage,  
convenience of location,  
desire for social interaction,  
need to church the children,  
Stained glass windows bathe  
the sanctuary in rainbow light.  
The organ prelude, so calming,  
so soothing!  
The children's story, so entertaining!  
The choir, so talented, so professional!  
So inspirational! What was it

they sang?

We hear the same words,  
same music,  
the experience modified  
by personal expectations.  
We come to worship, a little;  
come to be challenged, but not much.  
For a moment,  
God, help us to forget the  
ills of the world.

We want to hear about those in need, a little.  
About our missionary program, but not much.  
About our budget needs, but my money is committed.

About those who have died or are hospitalized.  
Sorry. We have no time to visit.

The preacher is so eloquent, so scholarly;  
her stories so interesting and illustrative.

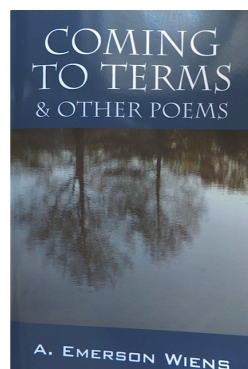
But I've forgotten her points. What?

We are responsible for people in need and God's creation? Is that in the by-laws?

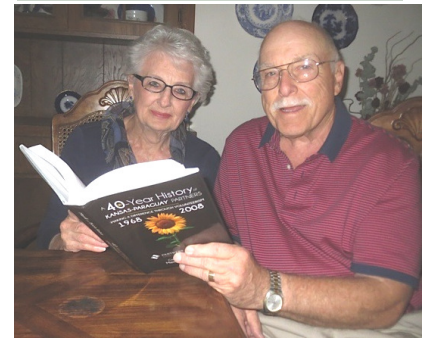
My lifestyle is sacred! It will not be compromised!  
Who does God think He is?  
So pleasant to relax here in the pew  
away from my exciting, egocentric life.

I'll make my grocery list during the offertory.

I am renewed, ready to face another hectic week.  
What would we do without Sunday worship?



## Kansas Paraguay Partners by Merrill and Boots Raber



*A 40-Year History of the Kansas Paraguay Partners: Making a Difference Through Volunteerism*, is a new book compiled and edited by Merrill and Boots Raber. This book funded by the Kansas Paraguay Partners has taken the Rabers five years to complete. It traces the unique history of KPP from its beginning with John F. Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress", and Governor Robert Docking's commitment in 1968, to the many "people-to-people" exchanges between the citizens of Paraguay and the citizens of Kansas, over 40 years. It may be of special interest to learn the role Menonites played in its early history including BCMC members Justina Neufeld, Arlo Kasper and Howard Snider, and the late Herb Schmidt MD, and Elmer Ediger, and supporters Harry Neufeld, Harald and Lotti Boschmann and Hugo and Mary Ann Boschmann. Merrill and Boots who have been involved with KPP since 1973 have found it to be an enriching experience and are pleased to share this unique KPP history with others. ~ Merrill Raber

*Editor's comment: We have a variety of talented writers at BCMC church, and certainly want to applaud Merrill and Boots for their work not only on this book, but their commitment to this valuable partnership over the years.*

~Lois Goertzen

## Vernon and Shirley King and Mennonite Disaster Service



It has been a little more than ten years since we left Newton and moved to south central Pennsylvania. Vern retired in June 2012 as President/CEO of Cross Keys Village: The Brethren Home, a large Church of the Brethren retirement community in New Oxford. This past June Shirley retired as Dean of Academic Advising and Adjunct Professor of Music at Dickinson College, and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. We've really enjoyed our PA adventure and the new opportunities it has presented during the past ten years. With our retirements we now have time to do some of the things we have been looking forward to. Following several summer trips, we are currently in the middle of a five-week Mennonite Disaster Service assignment in Braithwaite, Louisiana – about 18 miles south of New Orleans on the east side of the Mississippi River. One of four couples in the relatively recent RV program here, our Canadian colleagues from Manitoba have been part of this program for a number of years already. Braithwaite was hit hard last year by hurricane Isaac, which caused significant flooding and wind-damage to the majority

of homes in this area. Involved primarily in repair work, the MDS projects have included building a ramp/deck to a new trailer house for a man in a wheelchair; complete renovation of kitchen, doors and floors for a gutted trailer house; and numerous new roofs for trailer homes in the area. In addition to the safety of new shelter our projects provide, we see on a daily basis how important rebuilding hope has been for the families with whom we have been working. Warm smiles, sincere expressions of appreciation and gifts of food and fresh fruit represent some of the many ways gratitude is expressed for the work MDS has done in this community. It has been a real privilege to be part of this MDS team and we are grateful for the opportunities we've had to participate with our new friends these past weeks. ~ *Vernon and Shirley King*

## Obituaries



**Dwaine Alan Esau—  
December 18,  
1953—  
November 25,  
2013**

Dwaine A. Esau, 59, died Monday, Nov. 25, 2013, at Newton Medical Center.

He was born Dec. 18, 1953, in Newton to Marvin and Gladys (Woelk) Esau. On May 23, 1981, he married Becky Johnston, and she survives of the home in Walton.

Dwaine was a member of the Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton. He worked as agronomy manager for the Mid-Kansas Coop for the last 13 years. He

started working with his dad at the Coop when he was 13 years old.

Dwaine was a fire captain and safety officer with the Walton Fire Department, where he volunteered for the last 41 years. He enjoyed fishing, car restoration and bowling. He greatly enjoyed his bowling friends and has bowled a rare 300 game. He also greatly enjoyed following his kids' and grandkids' sports teams and traveling to watch them play.

He helped coordinate the local softball tournament for the Walton Fire Department to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. By far Dwaine's greatest joy in life was his family and grandchildren, and he looked forward to spending time with his loving family.

He is survived by his parents Marvin and Gladys Esau of Walton; his wife, Becky of the home; sons, Joshua Esau of Missouri and Adam Esau of Walton; daughter, Brianna Esau of Newton; brother, John and his wife, Shirley Esau of Walton; sisters, Donna and her husband, Keith Woolery of North Newton, and Linda and her husband, David Miller of Wichita; also surviving are four grandchildren, Avery Gates, Logan Esau, Seth Esau and Kamryn Esau.



**John Banman—  
June 23,  
1918—  
November  
29, 2013**  
John Banman, 95, died on

Nov. 29 at Kidron Bethel Health Care in North Newton.

He was born on June 23, 1918, in Canton to Jacob and Helen (Pankratz) Banman.

John, a graduate of Newton High School, attended Bethel College for one year prior to completing his bachelor's degree at Wichita University in 1940. Two years later, he received the first master's degree given in clarinet performance from Northwestern University. While serving as a medic in the Army, he performed with various military music ensembles.

John, an honored music educator, taught in Kansas for more than 65 years in Clearwater, Ellinwood and Great Bend. John was a woodwind instructor at Fort Hays State Summer Band Camp for more than 20 years. After retirement, he gave private lessons in Hesston and Newton.

Throughout his career, John continued to perform and arrange music. From the 1940s until his retirement, he was a fine jazz saxophonist performing with musicians across Kansas and beyond. Upon retirement in Harvey County, John returned to classical music, performing with the Mid-Kansas Orchestra, various Bethel College groups, in local churches and in recitals with local musicians.

John was a member of Bethel College Mennonite Church and beloved member of the Kidron Health Care community where his music and humor provided a lift to many. He was a dear friend, teacher, father and husband and will be remembered for his generosity of spirit and a life well-lived. When asked recently by W. Nugent about advice for living a good long life he said: "Try to think of something you can do to make this a good world."

He is survived by his children: daughter, Nancy Banman and spouse, Stanley J. Scott, and son, Paul Banman and spouse, Robin Avery.

## Associate Pastor Search Committee

At their November 7 meeting, the Church Board selected five persons, along with the Lead Pastor, as a cross section of our congregation to serve as the Search Committee for the “settled” Associate Pastor for Faith Formation. We are pleased that all persons agreed to serve in this capacity. They are John Esau as chair person, Bonnie Krehbiel, Josh Brubacher, Valetta Seymour, Doug Siemens and Lead Pastor Heidi Regier Kreider. Please keep these persons and this process in your prayers as they seek to find the person to minister in this position at BCMC.



There's a big push on To finish the “Living Stones” remodeling project. Above is the coffee station in the “Gathering Place”; the arch is where the water fountains will be installed.



Tiling the women's restroom →

← Cabinet in nursery

Nursery windows—wood-work is installed →



*Merry Christmas To All*



## Pastor's Corner— Weldon Martens

Since I'm too lazy to daily plug in Christmas lights I decided to buy a timer at Wal-Mart. I am often conflicted about entering Wal-Mart. Being aware of a good value I want their “always low prices” and yet being aware of social ethics I'm concerned about their treatment of employees and impact on communities.

This time I put my ethical pondering aside and went in to buy a timer. While I scanned the shelves for a timer a 70-year-old man stocking shelves rolled his merchandise cart beside me.

Out of the blue he blurted out, “Just look at all this junk.”

I was startled. I thought to myself, “Did I really hear him right? Can he say that? Can he be that honest? Aren't such words treasonous?”

“Welcome to Christmas,” I said.

He continued, “Yea, did you see the eight semi-trailers in the parking lot? They are full of stuff waiting to be unloaded the day after Thanksgiving. I was warned about the Friday after Thanksgiving. Last year an elderly lady got run over in the store for a laptop computer. Our manager was so mad he grabbed the laptop away from the man who ran over the lady.”

“I'm sorry,” I said.

He paused and said, “Yea, and all this in the name of Jesus.”

Picking up my ‘always low price’ timer I turned to him and said, “Have a Merry Christmas. Really.”

“Thanks,” he said. “You too.”

## Receive the Newsletter Electronically

**You could receive the newsletter electronically.** The way of the world seems to be to read things received on the internet or email. Every month we mail over 200 newsletters to members at a distance. One way to help alleviate some of the expense involved would be to sign up for receiving your newsletter electronically. If you are one who receives a hard copy of the newsletter –

by mail but would be interested in an electronic version, please furnish us with your email address and we'll make that change.

Tell Monica Lichti: office.bcmc@sbcglobal.net or at P.O. Box 364, North Newton, KS 67114, or by phone at 316-283-3667.

The *Kaleidoscope* is in color electronically, by email and on the website! Thanks for considering this change. ~ *Lois Goertzen, Kaleidoscope Editor*



Return service requested

**Worship schedule** *(Check weekly bulletins and church web site, [bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org](http://bethelcollegemennonitechurch.org), for updates and details on worship and other events)*

**9:30 a.m.**—Worship (unless otherwise noted)

**10:30 a.m.**—Fellowship time

**10:50 a.m.**—Christian education

### December 2013

During the month of December preludes are at 9:00 a.m. with the church service following at 9:30 a.m.

#### December 1—First Sunday of Advent

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Bells; communion will be served

#### December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

Worship with sermon by Weldon Martens; music by Chancel Choir

#### December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

Worship with sermon by ; music by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Cherub and Junior Choirs

#### December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship with scripture reflections by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Chancel Choir and Menno Ringers

#### December 24—Christmas Eve

**7:00 p.m.** Children and Youth Christmas Program—Sanctuary

**11:00 p.m.** Lessons and Carols—Sanctuary

#### December 29—First Sunday of Christmas—Worship is at 10:00 a.m. followed by refreshments; no Sunday school

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; Christmas carol singing

### January 2014

#### January 5—Epiphany Sunday

Worship with sermon by Weldon Martens

**7:00 p.m.** New Year Memorial and Communion Service—Sanctuary

#### January 12

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

#### January 19

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

#### January 26—Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday

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

**11:45 a.m.** Soup fundraiser luncheon sponsored by the Senior High Youth Group—Fellowship Hall

**12:45 p.m.** Congregational meeting—Sanctuary

**Happy New Year**

**2014**

*Best Wishes*