

# KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

February—March 2008/2:1



Bethel College Mennonite Church  
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## THE NEW SOUND OF WORSHIP

The squeals, crackling and some times dead silence of the sanctuary's sound system will soon be a thing of the past. No longer will you have to choose a place to sit so that you will be able to hear the service. Early last year an ad hoc committee was assembled to research and recommend a new sound system. The committee was chaired by Doris Whillock of the Trustees committee, and included: Ken Lamp (P.A. system committee), John Suderman (music committee), Roger Juhnke (staff), Dale Horst (recording committee) and Karen Ediger (Worship Commission). Several professional sound system technicians were invited to come and evaluate the present system and then make recommendations for improvements. The committee members had a lot to learn about the latest in sound technology.

After evaluating the technical aspects, costs, and congregational needs, the committee presented a proposal to the Church Board last fall. The board accepted the committee's proposal and it was soon after presented to the congregation at the September meeting. The proposal was approved

by the congregation with the provision that the project would not begin until \$20,000 of the total \$33,000 cost had been secured through designated contributions. By December \$20,000 in contributions had been made and the committee was given approval to begin making arrangements for purchasing the new system. For a brief time it was hoped that the new system could be installed in time for Christmas, but it soon became clear that the various parts could not be obtained in time.

Not surprising, many significant advances in sound technology have occurred since our old system was purchased approximately 25 years ago. The new system will include the latest in microphones, amplifiers, speakers, and recorder, along with new wiring and improved placement of the speakers. In addition to the sanctuary, new sound systems will also be installed in fellowship hall and the chapel. The systems in fellowship hall and the chapel will be connected to the sanctuary so that that these places can serve as overflow are-

as when needed. The improvements in the quality of sound will not only be enjoyed by those attending church services, but also by those who receive recordings of the services at their residence. Services will be recorded on compact discs (CD's) providing a greatly improved sound quality compared to the tape cassettes we have used in the past. After the new system is installed, tape cassettes will not be available. A CD player will be required to play back the recordings. Please call the church office (1-316-283-3667) if you require assistance in obtaining a CD player or have any questions about these changes.

At this time all but approximately \$1,000 of the total cost has been contributed.

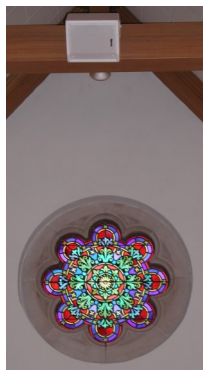
Thank you to everyone who has contributed to support this important project. The various parts for the new system have arrived and installation of the systems in fellowship hall and the chapel are underway. Installation of the main system in the sanctuary is awaiting procurement of cabinetwork that will fit the new components and secure them against theft and damage. The project also included a portable video projection system, this equipment is being ordered. It is hoped that everything will be completed by early February. ~ *W. Dale Horst*

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## New P.A. System Pictures



Sound system mixer and amplifier in the Little Chapel



Speaker installed in the Little Chapel

Grant Brewer—Johnson Music Center, Hutchinson—installing the mixer and amplifier in Fellowship Hall



## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY DAVID C. WEDEL!



Close to 100 years ago, in 1908, Cornelius C. Wedel, resident of Goessel, KS, walked to his neighbor's house and proudly announced the birth of his son, David C. Wedel. David's father had every reason to be proud of his son that day; David has since lived a remarkable 100 years. "I have so much to be grateful for," says David. "How can I ever say thank you enough to God for the life I've had?"

Son of Cornelius and Katherina (Unrau) Wedel and youngest of three children, David spent his early years in Goessel. At age 17, on May 31, 1925, he was baptized along with some of his peers, including his future wife, Martha Quiring, at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church by pastor, P.H. Unruh. David and Martha were married 11 years later at

Alexanderwohl with David's father, Cornelius, presiding as minister.

David said that his own call to ministry was an unforgettable experience. He remembers the President of Bethel College calling him into his office. When David arrived the president of a seminary in Rochester New York was there to greet him, "I hear you may be interested in ministry," he said. "No, not really," responded David. The seminary president must have been persuasive because by the end of the conversation David found himself saying, "if God wants me in the ministry, a way will become clear." A way did become clear and a couple years later, David was on his way to Rochester, NY (a trip that took three days by bus).

Other memorable life experiences include the following: singing in a college quartet; doing soloist work at a Baptist Church in Rochester; ministering for 10 years at First Mennonite Church in Halstead, KS; raising his two daughters, Eleanor Ann and Judith Kathryn, both born during his time at Halstead; directing a Civilian Public Service camp (re-forestation) for 6 months in Marietta, OH; serving as Bethel College President from 1952-1959 and working in admissions at Southwestern College.

Together with his wife, David became a member at Bethel College Mennonite Church on October 6, 1946. David, while he can't physically walk on his own, keeps his mind active. He still reads every issue of Mennonite Weekly Review, he recently read the New Testament all the way through and he still sings his favorite hymns, every note on key and every verse by memory.

"I've tried in my own way to build the kingdom of God," says David. "I hope the little I've done on this earth will somehow be everlasting." "This doesn't mean," he added, "that I don't have or ask a lot of difficult questions." "In fact," he continued, "I think the reason I'm still alive is that God is afraid I'll ask too many questions when we meet!"

Currently, David tries to let the following truths guide him: "God is a creator, not a supervisor"; God is merciful"; "build the kingdom of God in steps"; "stay as open and free as possible"; and finally, "positive thinking is everything."

Happy 100th, David! ~ Ruth R. Harder

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY RUPERT HOHMANN!



Listening to *Gangbusters* on Saturday night radio and meeting neighborhood friends on Mrs. Harshbarger's front porch for summer games were highlights of Rupert Hohmann's childhood as a Bethel College "campus kid." His parents, Walter and Elsbeth (Roessler) Hohmann lived next to Bethel, where his father was on the music faculty.

Rupert was born February 21, 1928, and grew up with two sisters. As a student at Cooper Elementary School he experienced early release days due to the terrible dust storms of the 1930s. During those Depression years, he says, "We were poor, but we didn't know it."

His family attended BCMC where he fondly remembers Sunday school opening exercises, and was baptized at age 13 by pastor J.N. Smucker in the Bethel College Chapel. Other pastors who were especially influential for him were Lester Hostetler who promoted the construction of the new church building and co-edited the *Mennonite Hymnary* (1940) together with Rupert's father, and the gifted preacher Russell Mast.

At a young age, Rupert began piano lessons from his father, and then studied violin with Mrs. Boris Congdon in Newton. He attended Bethel Academy and received a music degree from Bethel College in 1949. Rupert went on to receive his master's degree from Wichita State University (then U. of Wichita). He attended one year at the Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Chicago, and then received his doctorate in music from Northwestern University. While in Chicago, he was drafted and went into 1-W service for two years, doing music therapy with patients at the Philadelphia State Mental Hospital.

After graduate studies, Rupert served for five years on the music faculty at Bethel College where he conducted orchestra and taught other classes. For several years after that he taught at University of New Mexico and at Muskingum College in Ohio, and in 1966 he began a 23-year career at University of Wisconsin in Au Claire. There he conducted orchestra and taught studio violin and other classes, as well as maintaining a performance schedule of annual recitals.

In 1989 Rupert returned to his childhood home in North Newton. He has played violin with the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony orchestra, and offered his musical gifts many times in worship services at BCMC. He cites as one of his favorite scriptures Psalm 121, "I lift mine eyes to the hills..." noting that while there are few hills in Kansas, it is still a good place to be! In the words of the psalm we wish Rupert a birthday blessing: "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more."

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY MARJORIE (FAST) SCHOWALTER!



Marjorie (affectionately called Marge) was born to Ethel (Schindler) and Henry A. Fast on February 27, 1928 in Hartford, Connecticut, where her father was pursuing graduate work for a seminary degree. During her growing up years the Fast parental home was on the Bethel College campus where Marjorie's father was pastor of the Bethel College Mennonite Church from 1925-1930. He later held various academic positions at Bethel College as well as served as a leader with the General Conference Mennonite Church and spent some years as director of Civilian Public Service.

Marge earned the distinction of becoming one of the "campus kids," making friends with many members from the present BCMC congregation who also grew up as campus kids. She attended Newton schools and later graduated from Newton High School. Marge was always respectful of her parents and did not want to disgrace them by mischievous behavior! Her education continued at Bethel College where she graduated with the class of 1949.

After continued education at Bluffton College, Friends University and Wichita State, Marge entered the professional field as a music and piano teacher in the Wichita Public Schools. In 1952 Marge married Duane Schowalter. While she continued her teaching she and Duane raised two sons and two daughters. The family was active in the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita in its early years while Rev. George Stoneback was the pastor.

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## Marjorie Schowalter 80th Birthday—Continued

Marge learned the art of handcraft from her mother. She has done embroidery, knitting and has especially enjoyed sewing dainty dresses for her daughters. Marge's favorite Bible story is the story of Joseph and she has many favorite hymns which she played as a pianist and organist. A favorite subject at school was history, especially Kansas history and Mennonite history.

After her husband Duane died she married Earl Franz (Bethel College '49) a farmer and businessman from Lind, Washington. There she encountered and enjoyed rural life including farm trucks, combines and wheat farming - quite a change from her earlier Midwest teaching profession.

Again life has brought another change. Marjorie has recently moved to Kidron- Bethel in the Health Care wing where her cheery smile and wave welcomes you and invites you to drop in for a visit. Happy Birthday, Marge, from your friends and church family. May you experience God's love and presence with each new day.

~ Maxine Fast

## HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY MILDRED VORAN!



On the farm of Albert and Florence Claassen near Whitewater, Kansas, on February 2, 1928, a baby girl was born and was named Mildred Marie. She was the fourth of eight children in that family. They attended the Emmaus Mennonite Church. Mildred and her siblings walked 1 1/2 miles to a one-room school. She attended high school for two years in Whitewater and then transferred to Bethel Academy where she graduated in 1951. Her father convinced her to stay at home for one year—to become more mature. Mildred then went to Bethel College and graduated in 1946. She met Myron Voran at Bethel and they dated a few times, but Mildred went on to teach English and Math in the Middle School at Haven. The next summer she joined a Voluntary Service unit at Camp Pivika to care for handicapped children. It was there that Myron's sister Norma tried her hand at matchmaking, and then the dating continued. Mildred and Myron were married by Walter Dyck in the Emmaus Church in 1953 after she had taught two years in Haven.

Mildred and Myron moved to Topeka where Myron was in 1-W service. Then they moved to Freeman, South Dakota where Myron was teaching Industrial Arts. There it was that their first child, Kathy, was born. In 1955, Mildred, Myron and Kathy moved to Pretty Prairie and Myron began farming and building houses. Joining the family in the next years were three children—Barb, Brent and Jeanette. Mildred taught two more years at Pretty Prairie and then decided to stay home and help with the farm work and raise the children. The family attended the Pretty Prairie Mennonite Church. Mildred was active in the church in Sunday school, mission society, library and she was also active in many community projects.

On May 30, 1977, Mildred and Myron and family suffered a severe blow when Kathy was killed in an automobile accident. It is a sadness that does not go away and it makes all of us sad for them.

Upon their retirement in 1997, we at BCMC were most fortunate to have Mildred and Myron decide to move to North Newton and join Bethel College Mennonite Church. Mildred has continued being active in church work, being a circle leader, helping in matters of art and decoration, in MCC leadership roles, helping in the children's play school and singing in the choir. Mildred and Myron are members of the Sojourners Class.

For hymns, Mildred prefers the chorales. Her favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8. Mildred, may you have many more happy years among us here at BCMC. Your life and commitment to do what the Lord requires of us is a blessing to all of us. Happy 80th birthday, Mildred!

~ Mary Gaeddert



## WITH OUR MEMBERS

### Births

To Andrew and Danielle Crisman of Colorado Springs—Jacob Thomas and Herbert James born December 9, 2007  
(Danielle is a Wider Fellowship Member—she is the daughter of Marvin and Ruthann Dirks)



Twin Roses for  
the Crisman  
Twins

### Anniversaries



Clyde and Elvera (Abrahams) Prouty—  
March 9, 1958—Goessel Mennonite Church



James and Barbara (Balzer) Soth  
March 11, 1958—St. Mary's Rectory, Newton  
Rev. Russell Mast attended the meal afterwards

### Transfers

Letha Warketin and Cheryl Warkentin transferred their membership to the First Mennonite Church of Hutchinson

### A Note of Thanks!

**Thank you to Holly Keller, Leona Sawatzky and Martha Stucky** for many years of faithful service to the church through their volunteer work in the BCMC Library. ~ *From the Library Committee*

## MID-WEEK EVENING ACTIVITIES BEGIN JANUARY 30

Join your church family at BCMC for food, fellowship and conversation at Wednesday night suppers and activities that begin January 30, and continue for eight weeks through Easter week. In addition to the suppers served at 6:00 p.m. with various Sunday School classes preparing and serving the suppers, there will be a series of programs after supper (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.), as well as activities for children and youth.

A highlight of the programs will be four sessions featuring *Road Signs for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA*, focusing on the Mennonite Member Profile, a survey done in 2006 of individuals, congregations and church leaders throughout the country. The survey results invite reflection on trends and changes among Mennonites and God's call for us to be faithful in today's world. The sessions will be led by Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Conference Minister for Western District Conference, and pastor Heidi Regier Kreider, with others giving responses.

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## Mid-Week Evening Activities Continued

To prepare for this series, you are encouraged to read the book, *Road Signs for the Journey* by Conrad Kanagy, which uses the biblical narrative of Jeremiah to reflect on challenges and opportunities that God's people faced in the Sixth century B.C. and that we face today. The book may be purchased from Faith and Life Bookstore at a special 20 percent bulk discount for members of BCMC. (Advise the clerk you are from BCMC).

Two additional programs will be sponsored by Creation Care Committee, and there will be an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary on February 6. The eighth mid-week event will be a Maundy Thursday supper and Communion service on Thursday, March 20, that includes a combined worship and sharing around the table from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., recalling Jesus' last supper with his disciples before his death.

Check the bulletins and Mid-Week Evening Activities green brochure for the full schedule. (The full schedule is also posted on the web-site, [bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net](http://bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net).) Child care is available, upon request, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For children and youth, there are various activities, including choirs. The various choirs meet immediately after supper, followed by other activities at 7:30. The **Venture Club** for kids in grades 3-6 will explore our world and our church community through games, guests, field trips and other hands-on activities. The **Junior High Club** or "BC · MC · JHC" (pronounced Book · Muc · Jahook), for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, will continue their study of *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's unfolding promise to mend the entire universe*. The **Senior High Youth** meet in room 22 to discuss issues and practices pertinent to spiritual and social life. ~ Karen Penner

## WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—BCMC Will Help Support New Newton Hispanic Church Plant



*Ben Kreider carries a stack of bread baskets for the soup luncheon*

Following the soup luncheon sponsored by the Senior High Youth, the congregation met in the sanctuary for the winter congregational meeting, led by Darlene Dick, moderator.

Dick Koontz was elected to the Church Board to fill the position created by the resignation of Ruthann Dirks, whose term expires in 2009. Following reports by the pastors, Heidi Regier Kreider and Ruth Harder, the congregation heard short reports from the Restructuring Committee and the PA Replacement Committee. The PA system will be installed shortly.

Church Treasurer Omar Voran gave the 2007 year-end financial report. Funds contributed toward the budget in 2007 exceeded the annual budget, and expenses came in below. The church policy is to retain ten percent collected above the budget, with the balance to be disbursed on a prorated basis to the budget items under "Conference and Other Benevolences" prior to the opening of the new fiscal year. The excess prorated accordingly was in the amount of \$7,075.

The congregation voted to become a supporting congregation for a new bilingual/Spanish speaking congregation in the Newton area sponsored by Western District Conference. On behalf of Outreach/Peace and Justice Commission, Patty Shelly gave the history of plans for the new church. She advised the project first was introduced in early fall, and that there is a general support for the project among the Newton Mennonite churches. If all goes as planned, the start date for the new congregation will be in June of 2008. There are plans for a pastoral candidate to be in the Newton area the second weekend in February to meet with Newton pastors, preach in a local congregation and meet with the local group Sunday evening. The WDC budget for



*Emily Harder and Bekka Trumble set tables for the luncheon*

*Continued next page*

### *Winter Congregational Meeting Continued*

this new project includes a possible five-year plan for a declining subsidy from Newton-area churches, beginning with a projected \$24,000 the first two years, with reductions of \$4-5,000 the third year. BCMC's commitment for the first two years is \$7,000 annually.

Including a new line item for \$3,500 (one-half year) to sponsor the new Hispanic Church, the congregation adopted the 2008 BCMC budget in the amount of \$422,243. ~ *Karen Penner*

## **GUEST SPEAKER ON MARCH 16 FROM THE MILITARY COUNSELING NETWORK**



Michael Sharp, Director and Head Counselor for the Military Counseling Network will be our guest preacher and speak in Sunday school at BCMC on March 16. Sharp will speak about the work of MCN, a non-military network of organizations which provides free counseling service to soldiers who are questioning going to war or want to know more about military discharges and regulations, including conscientious objection. MCN is a project of the German Mennonite Peace Committee, Mennonite Central Committee, and Mennonite Mission Network. MCN has several counselors located in different regions throughout Germany who provide information, guidance and support for soldiers and their

families seeking discharge from the military. (See the MCN website at [www.mc-network](http://www.mc-network) for more information). Sharp has worked at MCN since 2005. Youth and adults in the congregation and wider community are invited to come hear his presentation. ~ *Heidi Regier Kreider*

## **PASTOR'S CORNER—PONDERING LIFE AND DEATH Heidi Regier Kreider**

Midway between Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter I am pondering the mysteries of life and death.

In the midst of the season of celebrating Jesus' birth, it seemed that death was very present with us at BCMC: On December 8, we hosted a moving memorial service for Kurt Harder together with members of Kurt's family and the wider community. Our shared worship that day gave testimony to a life dedicated to God, and to the strength of God's dedication to us in times of grief. On December 21 the Longest Night Service acknowledged the darkness of loss and brokenness in the world, and offered prayer for the light of Christ in the midst of that darkness. And on the evening of January 6 we lit candles for those who died during the previous year, and shared the Lord's Supper together with all the "saints" who have gone before us. We gave thanks for the precious gift of each person's life, and God's priceless gift of abundant life offered through Jesus Christ.

Life and death are always intertwined. Death is never far away at any time in our lives. Though we may try to escape, ignore or delay it, death comes to each of us. Death is frightening, a threat to the only reality that we have experienced and a cruel thief of those we love. Yet, the passage through death can also be sacred ground, an occasion for profound encounter with God's presence and the love and support of others. As people of faith, we are called to "companion" each other through this passage, affirming that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

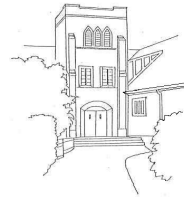
At BCMC we encourage members to file a "Funeral Preplanning Form" in the church office. Though this may seem intimidating, preparing well for death does not hasten its coming! Instead, it provides opportunity to discuss with family members and pastors ahead of time your values and preferences about the end of life, rather than leaving all the important decisions to be made in moments of crisis or grief. Currently, forms have been filed by members of many ages and stages in life. Forms can be updated or replaced at any time. To get a copy of the form, update your form, or discuss this with a pastor, please contact the church office.

Meanwhile, remember that the best preparation for death is a life lived to the fullest!

In Advent, we experienced death in the midst of celebrating Christ's birth. Now, as we approach the season of Lent and Easter, we enter the paradox of life rising out Christ's death. Let us embrace that life, here and now and in every season.

## FEBRUARY — MARCH

### Sunday worship schedule



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

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship time 10:30 a.m.

Christian education 10:50 a.m.

#### February

- 3 Transfiguration Sunday and Church Education Sunday with John Sheriff preaching**  
Bring Food for Salvation Army  
Noon—Mentor Banquet at Kansas Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution  
**Youth Catechism will meet every Sunday at 5 p.m., except for Easter Sunday—Room 11**
- 6** Ash Wednesday—Worship Service at 6:45 p.m.
- 10 First Sunday in Lent**
- 17 Second Sunday in Lent**  
Noon—Fellowship & Friends Potluck—Fellowship Hall
- 24 Third Sunday in Lent**

#### March

- 2 Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
Bring Food for Salvation Army
- 9 Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
Daylight Savings Time Begins—Spring Forward! - Set your clocks ahead one hour
- 16 Palm Sunday with guest preacher Michael Sharp from Military Counseling Network**  
Sunday School elective with Michael Sharp  
Noon—Golden Agers Potluck—Fellowship Hall
- 20** Maundy Thursday—Soup Supper and Communion Service— 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 21** Good Friday
- 23 Easter Sunday—7 a.m. Sunrise Service (details to be announced)**  
**9:30 a.m. Prelude; 10:00 a.m. Worship Service—Sanctuary (No Sunday School)**
- 30 Holy Humor Sunday—Bring a good church joke or funny faith moment to share!**

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Bethel College Mennonite Church

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Return service requested