

KALEIDOSCOPE

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

February — March 2012 6:1



OUR KIDRON BETHEL BUS DRIVER



A new avenue for volunteer service was created when Kidron Bethel (KB) Retirement Center purchased its first 16-passenger bus complete with wheelchair lift. When James Huxman, then KB administrator, announced the need for Sunday volunteer drivers, a number of BCMC church members volunteered. Among the BCMC, CDLC-C (Kansas Class C Commercial Driver's License) drivers have been James Robb, Herman Toevs, Phil Koontz, Orvin Voth, and Marv Dirks. At the present time Marv Dirks from BCMC and Ken Frey from First Mennonite share the Sunday volunteer position.

Marv's KB bus driving days began when his sister, Ann, was a resident. He was so impressed with how kind folks were to Ann that it was just natural to look for ways to be kind back to the KB residents. The rest is history. By now, Ruthann and Marv have so many good friends at KB, it is just natural to look forward to helping them get to church on Sundays. Our bus riders just feel like family. Marv says getting up early on Sunday mornings is ever so much easier because Ruthann goes along and does a lot of the personal work making sure people don't fall getting off the bus and making sure everybody has their seatbelt on, including the driver. An interesting little twist to the Kidron Bethel bus schedule will occur on Sunday, January 29, 2012. We take 16 to 24 people each Sunday to three churches, First Mennonite, Faith Mennonite, and Bethel College Mennonite, all of which will begin and end within 15 minutes of each other. A dry run in the car suggests that it is doable if we aren't interrupted by any Santa Fe trains. Is anyone interested in a lesson in learned patience on Sunday morning? ~ by Ruthann Dirks

Editor's note: I continue to be amazed by the many areas of service our church members provide. Thanks, Marv and Ruthann, for serving those whose mobility is challenged in this manner - you are indeed appreciated by the residents as well as fellow church members. ~ Lois Goertzen

The best thing about snow camp—Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp—January 20-22, 2012



Seven BCMC junior high youth and two sponsors attended Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp snow camp January 20-22. Here are some highlights collected by sponsors LuAnn Zook and Peter Wintermote:

Jon Baloo says "Snow Camp is the awesomest thing I have done in my whole life!"
Zoe Siemens says "Tubing!"

Moirra Dewey says "I went to find my friends and I ended up tubing down the snow."

Jason Wong says "It was the best days ever!!!!"

Angus Siemens says "Playing Texas Hold'em with Dutch Blitz cards."

Will LeVan says " Snow camp was awesome. The bus ride, the tube run, the snow, the frozen pond, everything was amazing. I loved the meals.

The kitchen did an awesome job. Go kitchen!"



Will LeVan sings

Jason Wong is rocked by speaker Caleb Lazaro for the photo "Caleb Lazaro Rocks!" during the scavenger hunt. Caleb Lazaro pastors a Spanish-speaking church seeking Mennonite affiliation held in a rock climbing gym in Colorado Springs. Although his four worship messages were addressed to his audience of middle schoolers, adult sponsors reviewed important messages on anger and starting over as spoken from this 24-year old immigrant rights activist.

Sponsor Lu Ann Zook says "Remembering that It's the Journey, Not the Destination."

Although Katherine Lamp got "a little sick" from either the bus ride or the altitude, she never let it slow her down.



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FROM ZAMBIA



Alison with two of her four brothers in Lusaka

Editor's Note: Alison Schmidt-Tieszen is with the Mennonite Central Committee SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program in Lusaka, Zambia. She is Assistant Project Coordinator for Community School Peace Clubs. You might write to her at alisonst6@gmail.com.

It's difficult to put into words one's experiences, especially when they vary so greatly from the highs to the lows. But here is a part of a journal I wrote recently. Hopefully, while blunt, it allows for some insight into some of my experiences and struggles I witness Zambians facing daily.

“One of the more disappointing and difficult experiences this last month that stood out to me was watching while my host father beat my brother. Watching this treatment of not just any child, but one that I have grown to love, was not only extremely difficult, but has unfortunately resulted in the loss of respect for my host dad.

People often talk about the treatment and inequality that women face here in Zambia and the larger world, which is necessary and important. However, with all the focus on women, I have begun to suspect that children are being left behind in this discussion of human rights. Of course, there is the Convention of Child Rights and legally they are protected in many ways through the United Nations as well as laws here in Zambia. However, in practice I see these ignored daily. What use are laws and articles and documents when they are only words on paper? Where is the accountability, the oversight, and the human desire to protect our own children?

This isn't just an issue of responsibility within government and law, though. Treatment of children becomes an issue for the church. I can't count the number of times I've heard the story of Jesus inviting the children to him. The sad irony is however, beating children and general ill-treatment reaches even our pastors' homes. I know this because my host father is a pastor himself. I believe it is also important to say that loving care of our children should not just be about the absence of physical harm. In many families I have witnessed children being shooed away, verbally harassed, made to do unreasonable amounts of physical labor, and sometimes forced to wait to eat until all others have (leaving their growing bodies hungry and sometimes malnourished.)

While witnessing this abuse created a very negative environment and attitude for me for a couple of days, it also enabled a positive thing to come from it. It allowed me to bring up the issue of child abuse/treatment with my host mother. The dialogue and discussion we had allowed for both honesty on both sides as well as an opportunity for growth and change. While it can be uncomfortable to bring up sensitive issues like this, it helped me realize that to be silent is to allow abuse to continue. It is not a quick or easy fix, but a necessary step to take.

Another event that occurred this last month was in response to some of my work with young women at a Tailoring School. I had been visiting them once a week to discuss any concerns/issues they were having as women. After class one day, a young woman approached me confessing she was in an abusive marriage. I'm sorry to say I was neither surprised nor shocked. It seems almost every day I find out that another woman I know personally, is being abused by her husband/boyfriend or is prostituting herself out to make money.

Finding this out from friends, family, church members, and work clients, while not surprising, can be extremely disheartening at times. However, I have to remember that for them to simply be open about these issues is a HUGE step. Often women in abusive relationships try to hide the fact. But, if these women are willing to talk about it, and in some cases seek change, then there is hope for them. I see Zambia as having a long ways to go in terms of treatment of women. However, I also see hope in the women themselves. If you talk to them long enough (without men around), many will start to open up and admit that they are unhappy with the “culture” as it is. They are wanting change, but just unsure as to how it can be done. I truly believe that Zambia will only begin to prosper as a whole when women are seen as equals and are able to stand for themselves. When I think about the United States history and women's suffrage, it wasn't that long ago, that my mother, grandmothers, and great grandmothers were fighting for the same things. I pray that the women here find the courage for themselves, to not only see a better future but **fight** for it!” ~ Alison Schmidt-Tieszen

AND FROM RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Christopher Wagoner is currently participating in Service Adventure, a year-long service program of Mennonite Mission Network. He lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with four other volunteers. (Dorothea Isaak, Jack Younger, Abby Drader and Sofia Hess, as well as unit leaders, Leah and Todd Gusler, are pictured on the next page with Chris.) Chris works part-time for The Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The store, which generates revenue to build new Habitat homes in Raleigh, accepts donations of new and used building materials from companies and individuals to sell at discounted prices. Chris' job is to help

find what they need and helps with the sorting and upkeep of the store's merchandise. Chris also works part-time at the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Farm. Part of the mission of the food shuttle is to provide healthy and fresh items for those who are malnourished in the Raleigh community. Chris works with a team of others who plant, harvest, and tend to the daily operations of the farm. Unit leader, Todd Gusler, says that one of the things he appreciates about Chris is his deep thinking and that he seeks to understand faith and think about how it applies to his daily life. Todd hopes and prays that this experience in Raleigh is providing him with opportunities to do just that. ~ *Ruth R. Harder*

And now some words from Chris:

“It's been five months since I started Service Adventure in Raleigh, and I've learned a few things. First, never trust the bus schedule. I ride the bus about half of the week, and I still don't feel comfortable in guessing when it'll show up. Second, manual labor is something I just learned about this year. My first 'job', working at a ReStore, basically a thrift store for your house, requires me to lift and carry pieces of furniture of varying size, shape, and weight. Not fun. My other job, working on a farm that supplies fresh produce to those with limited income or none at all, requires me to work on one or two tasks that could easily take all day to complete. Very tiresome, very repetitive, very boring. Third, God is with you no matter where you are or what you're doing. At the ReStore, I work with Community Service individuals who have to do this instead of going to jail. I've gotten close to a few and know at least half of the people who've been CS on at least a friendly level. We laugh and tell stories to lighten the load that we're carrying at the time, figurative and literal. On the farm, I'm by myself and my thoughts often, which allows me to focus my future a little better each week. Also, even though it's more-or-less in the middle of the city, it's quiet of the city noise and allows me to hear nature and feel closer to it, even though I'm basically bending it to my own means. Even outside of work, I feel like I get closer to God. A few months ago, I was walking to the bus stop after a day at the ReStore, and there was this old woman who asked me where a stop was. I showed her, and even though it wasn't the one I needed, I stayed with her until her bus came. In that brief time, she told me her life's story, and she was so happy to have someone to listen to her, even if it was just a stranger. When her bus came, and I told her it wasn't my bus, she called me her guardian angel because of that. And fourth, the best way to find out who you truly are is to take you out of your comfort zone. Here in the household, where there are six other individuals besides myself, it's easy to feel uncomfortable. Since the beginning, there's been a little tension between me and one of the female house members. I won't say her name, because she might get mad if she saw this. But this week we finally sat down and talked about it, albeit because of the house leaders, Todd and Leah Gusler. Because of this, we were finally able to clear the air, and figured out that the anger she felt could very easily just be anxiety about being so far out of the loop with her family and friends back home. We were able to begin to build an understanding between the two of us, and I hope it will soon blossom into a friendship in the next half of this adventure.”



Chris and members of the Service Adventure Unit in Raleigh

TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MICHAEL CRAWFORD



If you visit the church on week days, you are likely to see a new face about the hallways, in Sunday school classrooms, in the sanctuary or fellowship hall. This would be Michael Crawford, BCMC's new custodian, who began his duties on Thursday, January 12. Here's a countdown on getting to know Michael.

1. Born in Hutchinson, has lived in Colorado, California and then back to Kansas 15 years ago.
2. Married to Renae, who is the manager of the kitchen at Santa Fe Middle School.
3. Parents to three daughters, Milissa, Michelle and Maria, the youngest of whom is in her fourth year at Wichita State University.
4. The wonderful experience of being grandparents to two boys and two girls, two of whom live in San

Diego and a two and four-year-old living here.

5. Spent 33 years in the auto-glass and residential glass industry.
6. A die-hard Denver Bronco fan, as well as of Bill Self and the KU Basketball team!
7. Loves to archery-hunt deer with friends and can spend hours fishing—he prefers farm ponds.
8. They have a back-yard pool that Renae maintains, and together they enjoy doing all their own yard work.
9. Is an avid golfer, and will join the Halstead Golf Course this spring.
10. Michael felt he needed a change in his work, and when he learned about the BCMC position, decided it would be something he would enjoy. His initial experience has been positive, especially learning to know the staff and others he has met. Everyone has been friendly and he's off to a good start.

Welcome to BCMC, Michael! We are glad you have joined our staff and we look forward to learning to know you better.

~ *Karen Penner*

GETTING TO KNOW JOHN P., KIM SANG-EUN AND MISOL KLIEWER



John and Sang-eun Kliewer, with their young daughter Misol, arrived in Kansas from Korea this past summer to spend a year in Kansas, with John attending Bethel College for the school year. They are living with John's parents, John and Judy Kliewer in North Newton.

John was born in Vanga, near Kinshasa in the Congo. While he has few memories of his early life experiences in the Congo—he was three-years-old when his family left—John believes that these early years, while his Dad served as a pilot to move missionaries in Africa, helped him form a sense of being a *world citizen*, with a curiosity to explore the world. John graduated from Goshen College in 2003 with a Fine Arts degree, and two years later decided to

go to Korea for an international experience, exploring and living in another culture. At a picnic of mutual friends in Jeju, South Korea, John met Kim Sang-eun, and she and her friends took him under their wings. Their friendship blossomed and they were married.

Both John and Sang-eun were English teachers in Jeju—John began at the kindergarten level and ended up teaching all levels, even professors. Sang-eun is a graduate of Dongguk University in Seoul with a major in German literature. She taught English in Seoul and Jeju, where she was also head teacher of a kindergarten program. John's teaching expanded from not only English, but to teaching ceramics at the college level. He had the opportunity to build a kiln with Justin Dyck from Canada, that is fired with wood. This led to his position of teaching ceramics. As a side-light, the pottery/ceramics in Jeju is a landmark, and contains much iron that gives a unique porous quality perfect for storing fermented foods.

The family returned to Kansas this school year for John to obtain his teaching certificate at Bethel College. He will be doing his student teaching second semester. He plans to attend an international job fair this spring as he seeks a teaching position for their return to Korea next year. His hope is to be able to teach in one of several international schools on Jeju. While in Kansas, Sang-eun is cherishing quality time with their 16-month-old daughter Misol, a very animated, friendly child. Misol's dolly is named Rosie. Both John and Sang-eun said that after Misol was born, their own perspectives and priorities changed. This is when *creation care* in a broad sense became more important in their lives.

They live on the Korean island of Jeju, population about 565,000, just south off the coast of mainland South Korea, where Sang-eun's grandparents also live. Korea is known as an agrarian society. Her grandfather was a Christian pastor, and her grandparents are retired organic farmers, very involved in creation care. John and Sang-eun help out in her grandmother's large organic garden that she still maintains in their retirement. John describes it as a great experience—including driving a John Deere tractor in Korea! The grandparents' life style has played a big influence in John and Sang-eun's lives, who also embrace the use of organic produce for food and creation care in general as a way of learning and giving, not just taking from the land. John credits his motivation for this going back to his family's experiences in Africa and his Mennonite heritage that he cherishes.

John and Sang-eun's long-term mutual goals include having their own organic farm on Jeju, and becoming self-sustainable. They believe organic gardening evolves into total *creation care*—eating healthy foods for healthy bodies, and land stewardship, creating healthy and sustainable land. In addition, they dream of having a community center where people gather, that would include Sang-eun's tea and book shop, where one might drink a cup of tea, read and buy books, and where children come to learn, with John having a kiln at the back of the shop.

We are grateful for the opportunity to get to know you, John, Sang-eun, and Misol, while you are in our midst at BCMC. We wish you God's blessings as you grow and move into accomplishing your dreams in Korea. And "thank you" John, for your presence on BCMC's Creation Care Committee. Our children and youth enjoyed your leadership, John, in making clay ornaments before Christmas, with the proceeds of donations for the ornaments going to the Salvation Army's *Harvest of Love*. You will always be welcome here at BCMC. ~ Karen Penner

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES CONCLUDES

The January 22 Hymn Festival completed the five part organ recital series marking the 50th anniversary of the installation of our Moeller pipe organ. Beginning in April 2011, organists Roseann Penner Kaufman, Eleanor Wismer Kaufman, Christopher Shaw, and Shirley Sprunger King were featured and were assisted by Bethel College Mennonite Church Chancel Choir, Chancel Bell Choir, and a variety of other musicians. The Music Committee extends sincere thanks to the members and friends of our congregation who attended these recitals, and financially contributed to the current maintenance and future development of our organ. Your attendance and support have confirmed the significant role that the organ plays in our worship and music community. Thank you!

~ The BCMC Music Committee



Members of the BCMC Music Committee: Eleanor Kaufman, Christopher Shaw, John Suderman, Marles Preheim, Dwight Krehbiel, LaVera Schrag

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY ANNE NEUFELD RUPP!



Anne Neufeld Rupp was born March 5, 1932, in her grandmother's stone house in southwestern Manitoba, Canada. She was the oldest of four children born to Abram G. Neufeld and Margaretha (Duerksen) Neufeld, 1925 Russian Mennonite immigrants. As a child, Anne knew she was "loved by Jesus, loved by her parents and loved by a clan of relatives." She thrived on imaginative play including roaming the pastures and imagining planes flying by and landing, bringing all kinds of interesting people to her family's farm. Anne's closest, life-long friend lived four miles away and her "primitive, one room schoolhouse" was two miles from home. During spring of her second grade, because neighbor children had no room in their buggy, Anne attended the Ninga Aaron school. She was the only Mennonite (German) in school. WW II had begun and during these months she endured much taunting and ridicule by anti-German students. The next fall Anne's brother came of age and they drove to the former country school with a horse and cart, and 50% of the students in that school were Mennonite.

Anne was baptized May 13, 1951, at Whitewater Mennonite Church near Boissevain, Manitoba. Many would say that Anne is a "jill of all trades" and a master of many! From an early age, she loved music, "every type and shape," she says. During early years she taught herself to play on an old pump organ and then took piano lessons through a correspondence course. During later years a teacher was finally available and she persisted in her piano and theory studies. Anne achieved a diploma in teaching and solo performance from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto while simultaneously attending Canadian Mennonite Bible College with degrees in Sacred Music and Christian Education. Anne has enjoyed doing everything from string art, charcoal, drawing, hymn/song lyrics, poetry, composing music, and probably much, much more! (Of her many lasting works, Anne wrote the lyrics to the well known hymn, "Holy Spirit, come with power," found in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.) Anne is still fluent in German and is grateful for the three years she worked with Old Colony Mennonites in Mexico. Anne is also grateful for her years at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries and for the encouragement and help she received in order to complete her degree. Seminary encouraged Anne's writing skills and since that time she has written and published many articles in Mennonite and non-Mennonite publications as well as poetry, curriculum, books and more. She is also grateful to have met her future husband, Kenneth Rupp, at seminary. Anne and Ken were married September 4, 1966. They enjoyed partnering as artists, travelers, pastors and as parents to their only son, Byron Kenneth, born in 1971. Ken's sudden death in April of 2010 is what prompted Anne's move back to North Newton (Anne studied at Bethel College in 1959-1960 and graduated from Bethel with a Bachelor of Arts). Ken's death remains a deep sorrow for Anne and yet, she continues to make new friends, read books, and interact with her son and his wife, Alyssia, as well as her two grandsons. Anne continues to discover new things about herself, her faith and the world. She is a true pioneer who, in Anne's own words, "spent a lifetime experimenting." She sought higher education when it was not a priority for many first generation Russian Mennonites, and she was the first woman ordained in the Central District Conference in November 1976. Anne reinstated her BCMC church membership in September, 2010. Her gifts, which she has honed through her lifetime, continue to shine. She continues to minister and empower people, especially those who often feel inadequate or who are marginalized. She also continues to encourage people to nurture their artistic voices and skills. Anne, as you approach your 80th birthday and as you look forward to a sibling reunion in Canada in April, we wish you health, comfort and wisdom. May God's spirit continue to work through and in you and may you continue to experience Jesus' love, the love of family, friends and the church community as well as the communion of saints. ~ Ruth R. Harder

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY FRANCES SIEMENS!



Frances grew up in Pawnee Rock, KS, following birth on March 26, 1932 at the St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend, where the nuns played Easter music the next day, Easter Sunday. Frances was the older of two children of Frank and Anna Laura Schultz. Her father farmed land across from the Bergthall Mennonite Church where she loved attending Sunday school, and was baptized.

She attended the Pawnee Rock School, graduating with 17 other students in 1950, before going to Bethel College where she majored in music. She was in the first Bethel choir to travel to Europe, participating in Mennonite World Conference and witnessing rubble still left from the war. At Bethel, Frances met Richard Siemens and they were married in 1954. He was drafted, so they moved to San Antonio to live near the army base there; Frances taught in a school with Spanish-speaking students, and witnessed the negative impact of poverty. Later, Richard's medical school and residency took them to Lawrence, Eudora and Kansas City, KS; Seattle, WA; (where daughter Charlotte was born); and to Ventura, CA. Richard then joined a medical practice in Lyons, KS, where son Doug (who is also a member of BCMC) was born, and where they stayed for over 40 years. Frances has fond memories of those years: Forming friendships with other physician-spouses; serving as scout den-mother and taking children to 4H and sports; teaching Sunday school, serving as a Deacon and Elder, and singing soprano in the choir at church. When she and Richard moved from Lyons to Newton, the Lyons Presbyterian Church "retired" her robe, giving her the label "Siemens 6!"

Continued next page

Frances Siemen's birthday story continued

Since 2007, Frances and Richard have enjoyed living at Kidron Bethel Village in Newton, which feels like home because of their many Bethel College and BCMC connections. She misses some things from the Presbyterian Church - like saying the Lord's Prayer and Apostle's Creed more regularly - but has found BCMC to be a good place to use her gifts and build new friendships.

Frances enjoys fishing, spending time with grandchildren, a reading club, and contacts with the Wednesday Lunch Bunch in Lyons. Her goals this year are to go through everything in her cupboards and ask, "Do I really need this?" - and to re-establish contact with long-time friends. She cites favorite hymns that connect with life experience: *O God, our help in ages past* reminds her of her grandmother's experience as a young girl on the Great Trek of 1880 led by Claus Epp from Russia; and *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* was sung at her wedding. While coping with rheumatoid arthritis, she finds inspiration in a favorite verse from Proverbs: "A merry heart is like medicine." And she quips, "If I'd known that I'd live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself!" Even better, we pray for God's continued care, as Frances celebrates 80 years of life!

~ Heidi Regier Kreider

WITH OUR MEMBERS

25th Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Kimberly and B. J. Stahly, whose anniversary was January 3, 1987.

Membership Changes: Bertha Krehbiel has requested a transfer of membership to Herold Mennonite Church in Cordell, OK.

ANNOUNCEMENT

"And God has made our homelessness his home!"

Geoffrey Ainger in *Hymns for Now*

Following are Bethel College Mennonite Church's dates at the Harvey County Homeless Shelter

March 7-13 Suppers

June 6-12 Evening Shifts

Sept. 5-11 Night Shifts

Nov. 28-Dec. 4

E-mail: dlbaumgartner@cox.net if you can help with any or all of the above!

~ Loretta Baumgartner, BCMC Homeless Shelter representative

LONG RANGE PLANNING TEAM UPDATE

The Long Range Planning Team (LRPT) has met for a year now, listening to the congregation's ideas, priorities and suggestions for the future, and working with an architect and other consultants. The LRPT offered a presentation at the January 29 congregational meeting to share what they have learned and test elements proposed for a long-range plan. They identified guiding values: Affirming the framework of our five commissions (Deacon, Hospitality, Faith Formation, Worship and Witness); environmental sustainability; multi-generational interaction; commitment to Bethel College and Kidron Bethel; service and mission; and the integrity of our existing building. The LRPT listed essentials that they intend to include in a long-range plan: Replace roof; new heating/AC system, create on-going maintenance plan; new interior and exterior signage system; front entrance renovation; and kitchen improvements. The LRPT then conducted a straw-poll to gather congregational feedback about a list of potential additional elements of a long term plan about which the LRPT seeks further feedback. Using the response from this straw poll, the LRPT will further refine the elements in a long-range plan to share with the congregation, before a formal vote on a plan at the April 29 congregational meeting. The LRPT appreciates the prayer and participation of the congregation as we continue to move through this process of "holy conversations," seeking God's purposes for the future of BCMC. - *Long Range Planning Team members are George Leary, chair; Sondra Koontz, Adam Robb, Harold Thieszen, Jenni Koontz, and Heidi Regier Kreider, staff liaison.*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE COMING!

Spring Wednesday night suppers begin this Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. and run through Mar. 28, with special programs following for adults, youth and children. Here

are the menus:

Feb. 8 Quiche, fruit salad, cinnamon rolls
Feb. 15 Chicken Cordon Bleu, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans with almonds, pears chocolate dessert
Feb. 22 Jambalaya, cornbread, tropical fruit, Key Lime pie

Feb. 29 Beef Stroganoff, salad, angel food cake with berries
March 7 Stuffed pork loin, roasted red potatoes, corn, applesauce, pineapple upside-down cake
March 14 Mexican Bar, strawberries and bananas, ice cream and cinnamon twists
March 21 Chicken and noodles, fresh fruit, peas, apple crisp
March 28 Ham steak, au gratin potatoes, broccoli, peaches, dinner rolls, Easter cookies

BCMC FACILITY USE POLICY REVISED

The Church Board recently approved a revised BCMC Facility Use Policy, following review of the policy by commissions, committees and staff. The reason for revision was to align with BCMC By-Laws approved by the congregation in January 2010, clarify procedures, and update fee structures. Some highlights of the revised policy:

Priority is given to church-sponsored events, but allows use of the facility free-of-charge for events sponsored by Bethel College, Mennonite agencies and other benevolences listed in the BCMC budget, and for personal/family events hosted by BCMC members. A facility use fee is charged for events sponsored by other individuals and organizations (including non-profit and for-profit organizations in which a BCMC member is involved). A “*BCMC member*” is defined as a person holding Full Membership or Wider Fellowship members at BCMC. In the case of weddings, the bride, groom or one of their parents must be a BCMC Member or Wider Fellowship Member in order to qualify for “member” status.

Reservations for use of the facility should be scheduled with the BCMC Administrative Assistant. A BCMC staff person or representative coordinated by the Administrative Assistant should be present in the building at all events scheduled at the church facility, including events sponsored by outside organizations or non-members. The Facility Attendant for an event may be a BCMC member from the group sponsoring the event; however, if this is not the case a fee is charged for a BCMC staff person or representative to serve as the Facility Attendant.

The policy also includes other fees and honorariums associated with facility use, guidelines for use of church equipment and use of the kitchen.

A full copy of the facility use policy is on the BCMC website, or available in the church office.

PASTOR'S CORNER—SUSAN WHEELER



A gift I received this Christmas was a little book, titled, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. She tells of her experience as she suffers a virulent type of mysterious illness. The illness causes severe damage to her autonomic nervous system, rendering her flat on her back and helpless. The story is told so descriptively, with choice words that are lovely and poetic, (working to soften the trauma, at least for the reader), from the violence of the reversal of all the patterns of her once active lifestyle. A friend finds a snail in the woods and brings it to Elizabeth's bedside along with a pot of transplanted violets from the lawn. Observing this tiny, insignificant, slime-making creature becomes life-giving. I quote, “Each morning there was a moment, before I had fully awakened, when my mind still groped its clumsy way back to consciousness...that moment was always full of pure, sweet, uncontrolled hope. I did not ask for this hope to come; I did not even want it, for it trailed disappointment in its wake. But that moment always passed, my eyes opened, and reality flooded in; nothing had changed at all. Then I thought of the snail. I'd look for the tiny, earth-colored creature...its familiar shape reminding me that I wasn't alone.”



In my own life, a most solid, comforting, and supportive aspect of my hope and faith in God is just that; I am not alone. I can't explain how or why exactly, but the “leap of faith” I took as a teen brought with it the very deep assurance that God was now with me. Over forty years of life experience has changed me significantly, and I have grown in new ways of understanding and believing in this God in whom I had (naively) placed my trust and faith. The crumbling foundations of more recent years have rearranged what I will call, “walls of trust.” We rebuild, don't we. Elizabeth is doing just that as she communes with a tiny snail, listening to sounds of life in its chewing. Hope often comes in unexpected, seemingly small ways.

A very small (size-wise) but marvelously “hope-filled” event my husband, Lee, and I experienced over the holidays was the birth of our first grandson. Tiny Julian Luiz came four weeks early on December 27th, weighing in at 5lb, 6oz. Because our daughter and husband live in Winnipeg, Manitoba, we will not spend as much time with Julian as our hearts would desire. Remembering the weight of his precious newborn body, lying so peacefully and trustfully in my arms, fills me with joy... and with hope. I believe God's heart swells, too – with joy and with hope, holding us close and sensing our learning to trust in love.



Bethel College Mennonite Church

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The Bethel College Relations Task Force Pancake Extravaganza was Saturday, January 14 in the BCMC Fellowship Hall. Approximately 250 students and BCMC members enjoyed pancakes, toppings and sausage!

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Task Force member, Darlene Dick serves sausage



Karen and Larry Penner enjoy pancakes and conversation with Bethel College students



Glen Ediger and Jonathan Baloo happily wash the dishes.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012 WORSHIP

Worship schedule (Check weekly bulletins and church web site, bcmc.ks.us.mennonite.net, for updates) Worship 9:30 a.m. — Fellowship time 10:30 a.m.—Christian education 10:50 a.m.— unless otherwise noted

February 2012

February 5

Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder; music by Cherub Choir and Menno Ringers

February 12

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

February 19

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Bethel College men's ensemble, *Open Road*

February 22—Ash Wednesday—Service in sanctuary — 6:45 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

February 26—1st Sunday in Lent

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

March 2012

March 4—2nd Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Heidi Regier Kreider; music by Junior Choir and Chancel Bells

March 11—3rd Sunday in Lent

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

March 18—4th Sunday in Lent

Worship with sermon by Ruth R. Harder

March 25—5th Sunday in Lent

Worship with preacher to be announced; music by Chancel Choir